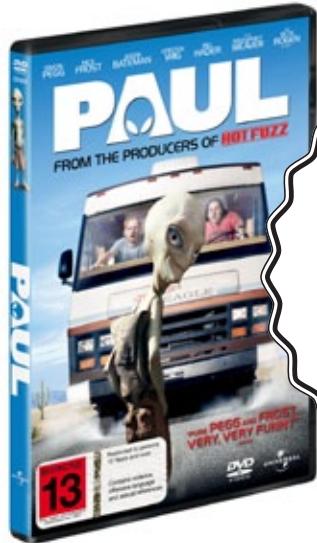


# JAY SALIENT



volume  
**74**  
issue  
**18**  
august  
**15**  
2011

Seriously, most of the time, it's just better to let things go. Ask yourself if you are really being hurt or let down or do you just enjoy being a victim?



We have two copies of **Paul** on DVD to giveaway. Email [editor@salient.org.nz](mailto:editor@salient.org.nz) with **PAUL** in the subject line and your name, address and favourite colour (and why) then you'll be in the draw! Entries close at 3pm on Friday 19 August 2011



## THE TEAM

Editors: Elle Hunt and Uther Dean  
[editor@salient.org.nz](mailto:editor@salient.org.nz)

Designer: Dan Hutchinson  
[designer@salient.org.nz](mailto:designer@salient.org.nz)

News Editor: Stella Blake-Kelly  
[news@salient.org.nz](mailto:news@salient.org.nz)

Chief Reporter: Natalie Powlesland  
[natalie@salient.org.nz](mailto:natalie@salient.org.nz)

Feature Writer: Selina Powell  
[selina@salient.org.nz](mailto:selina@salient.org.nz)

Feature Writer: Zoe Reid  
[zoe@salient.org.nz](mailto:zoe@salient.org.nz)

Chief Sub-Editor: Carlo Salizzo  
[carlo@salient.org.nz](mailto:carlo@salient.org.nz)

Online Editor: James Hurndell  
[james@salient.org.nz](mailto:james@salient.org.nz)

Arts Editor: Louise Burston  
[arts@salient.org.nz](mailto:arts@salient.org.nz)

## CONTRIBUTORS

Hayley Adams, Evie M. Anderson, Sally Anderson, Auntie Sharon, Stuart Baker, Linda Beckett, Seamus Brady, Rachel Brandon, David Burr, Paul Comrie-Thomson, Thomas Coughlan, Constance Cravings, Martin Doyle, Matthew Ellison, Judah Finnigan, Genevieve Fowler, Ally Garrett, Jason Govenlock, Harry Greenfield, Ryan Hammond, Meghan Harris, Duncan Hope, Cruz Johnson, Russ Kale, Robyn E. Kenealy, Sarita Lewis, Renee Lyons, Kiran Matthews, Molly McCarthy, Callum McDougal, Jono McLeod, Sam Northcott, Tom Reed, Antony Reid, Conrad Reynolds, Fairooz Samy, Ihaka Tunui, Lucy Tyndall, Edward Warren, Angus Winter, Josh Wright, and Ben Wylie-van Eerd.

## CONTRIBUTORS OF THE WEEK:

All of UniQ. Especially Gen Fowler and Josh Wright. All feature content was in on time. That's a first in living *Salient* memory and was all down to you guys.

## ABOUT US

*Salient* is produced by independent student journalists, employed by, but editorially independent from, the Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association (VUWSA). *Salient* is a member of, syndicated and supported by the Aotearoa Student Press Association (ASPA). It is printed by APN Print of Tauranga. Opinions expressed are not necessarily representative of those of ASPA, VUWSA, Printcorp, or Leelodallas multipass—hey dudes, seriously, I rewatched *The Fifth Element* this week and that film is the fucking bomb. It seems like it's going to be one of those films that was the best thing ever when you were twelve but now the rust of age and wisdom has tarnished them into a dull bloom of mediocrity, but it's really not. It's totally fucking amazing—but we of *Salient* are proud of our beliefs and take full responsibility for them.

## CONTACT

VUWSA Student Media Centre  
 Level 3, Student Union Building  
 Victoria University  
 PO Box 600, Wellington  
 Phone: 04 463 6766  
 Email: [editor@salient.org.nz](mailto:editor@salient.org.nz)

## ADVERTISING

Contact: Howard Pauling  
 Phone: 04 463 6982  
 Email: [sales@vuwsa.org.nz](mailto:sales@vuwsa.org.nz)

## OTHER

Subscriptions: Too lazy to walk to uni to pick up a copy of your favourite mag? We can post them out to you for a nominal fee. \$40 for Vic student, \$55 for everyone else. Please send an email containing your contact details with 'subscription' in the subject line to [editor@salient.org.nz](mailto:editor@salient.org.nz)

This issue is dedicated to the disenfranchised youth of England. This is what happens when you create an underclass of the young and unemployed, and then spend twenty years telling them how violent, dangerous and out of control they are.

# Issue 18 Queer

## The Regular Bits

Editorial	3
Ngāi Tauira	6
News	7
LOL News	11
The Week That Wasn't	13
Overheard @ Vic	13
Notices	43
Letters	44
Puzzles	46

## The Features

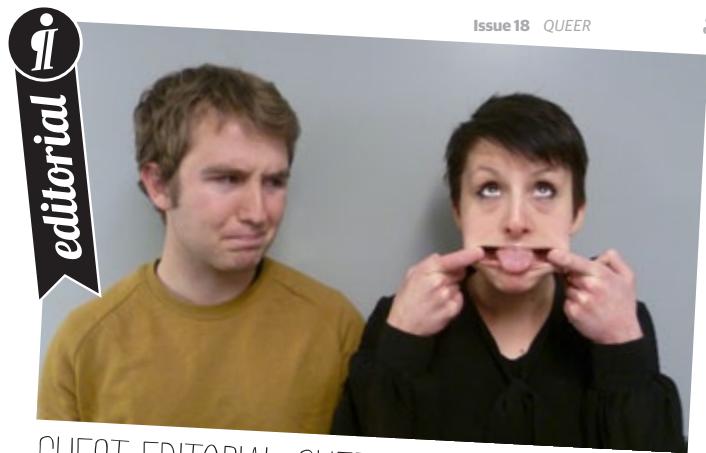
Going to the Chapel	16
The Science of Sexuality	20
Kiwifruit!	22
Guy Sex 101	24
Girl Sex 101	25
A Young, Middle-Class, White Student Rants About Privilege	26
Gays and the Media	28
Reasons to be Proud	29

## The Columns

VUWSA President	4
VUWSA Queer Officer	5
Politics with Paul	14
Laying Down the Law	15
Failure to Communicate	30
The 7th Inning Stretch	30
Ask Constance	32
Peas & Queues	32
I Am Offended Because...	33
Student Health Services	34
Animal of the Week	34
Lovin' from the Oven	42

## The Arts

Theatre	36
Visual Arts	37
Books	38
Film	39
Music	40
Games	41



## GUEST EDITORIAL. GUEDITORIAL.

JOSH WRIGHT & GENEVIEVE FOWLER

Another year, another *Gaylent*.

**HELLO, AND HAPPY** gay week to all you queerdos and queer-interested folk at Victoria University. This is your *Salient*.

One of the paradoxes we've found in guest-editing this edition is that being gay means lots and nothing, all at the same time. We live in a weird and wonderful zeitgeist in which a squiffy sexuality sets you apart for sure: biologically and historically (as the wonderful Matthew Ellison, Antony Reid and Meghan Harris point out). We differ in our challenges (by Selina Powell) and our champions (Duncan Hope) and, perhaps more notably, our lovers! (Cruz Johnson and Evie Anderson).

But queerness does not an identity make, or at least not any more. We live in an integrated world, and being gay no longer means that your personality must stereotypically follow suit. We come in so many shapes and sizes, flavours and varieties that there is no longer such a thing as 'gay acting' or indeed 'straight acting'. If being gay had a middle name it would be Diversity. That's what makes it awesome.

Indeed, as a wise man once said, 'queerness isn't who you are, it's who you fuck'. Truth.

But, as fluid and generally accepted as alternative sexuality is for many of us, we are not there yet. As much as the youth of today often feel that queerness is just a part of who they are (a nice, challenging, vibrant, wonderful part!) it is still often viewed as a nasty be-all and end-all—by lawmakers, friends, parents, employers, people. Hopefully one day, the formula for a socially insignificant relationship won't be exclusive to P + V.

So, there goes our annual opportunity to have a philosophical rant at y'all. Hope we didn't lose ya! A big thank you to the *Salient* crew for giving us a voice and a medium, help, and support. Thank you to our wonderful contributors who have given us their time and effort in writing such superb pieces. Thank you to the UniQ exec for a kick-ass year so far.

And high-five to you. You're reading it! How cool is that?! \*

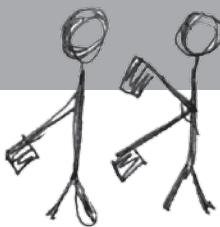




# Prez Col

**SEAMUS BRADY**

[president@vuwsa.org.nz](mailto:president@vuwsa.org.nz)  
[vuwsa.org.nz](http://vuwsa.org.nz)  
[facebook.com/vuwsa](http://facebook.com/vuwsa)



It was awesome to see a great turnout at our AGM last week. We did a number of things, but the most important change was adopting the proposal to allow for online voting for VUWSA policy motions.

**THIS IS A HUGE** step forward for VUWSA and for students wanting to actively participate in our democratic processes.

For a while now we have been developing a new strategic plan so we can better represent and serve all students at Victoria. We are doing this now as part of our programme of professionalising and invigorating our Association, so that we always provide an outstanding level of service year-to-year and give students a strong voice across Victoria. Our first step this process was holding a small workshop where we gained feedback and ideas about where VUWSA should be in the future. This input and feedback has assisted us with forming a draft Strategic Plan.

This draft currently focuses on three things—student engagement and participation, sustainability, and the idea of being a 'critical friend' and partner (where appropriate) with the University.

We are now in the middle of consultation on this draft and are keen to hear what you think. Last week we met with Ngai Tauira, UniQ, Postgraduate Students' Association, the International Students' Council, Women's Group, the Law Students' Society, VicCom, and with Class Reps in order to get their feedback on the draft. This has been extremely valuable and has given us a lot of things to think about to improve the current draft.

But we need your views on the 'top level' of the strategic plan. This includes refreshing our constitution with a new statement of our vision, values and purpose. It also includes major strategic initiatives over the next one to three years. So it is vital all students have the chance to shape this.

We've tried to make this process as easy and accessible as possible. On our website and Facebook page you will find a link to a quick online survey where you will find each section of the draft strategic plan and the opportunity to respond to each one. If you are not happy them you can provide your own suggested wording.

#### ***The sections we want you thoughts on include our:***

- Vision: This is our overarching vision for students at Victoria as we would like it to be.
- Values: These are the principles VUWSA will seek to hold above all others and guide our decisions.
- Purpose: VUWSA's reason for being—how we seek to bring our Vision into existence.
- Mission: this is a temporary, current mission that galvanizes our strategy over the next 3-5 years.
- Goals & Projects: these are a small number of key, vital strategies to deliver on our current mission.

It only takes a few minutes so I urge you all to complete the survey.

Enjoy this year's *Gaylent* – expanding closed minds since ages ago with the help of UniQ. \*



# Queer Officer



**TOM REED**  
FORWARD BY GENEVIEVE FOWLER

As the Queer goddess herself, Cher, once said, "I can trust my friends."

These people force me to examine, encourage me to grow." And here at Vic, that's what we're all about. Indeed, this sentiment of togetherness, of challenge and debate is at the core of queer communities the world over. If the gay movement has shown us anything, it's that us homos are thick as thieves, and good God we can show it. Pride Parades, rallies, law changing, awareness campaigns—ever been to a big gay rave? The queers do togetherness well, and today our community is testament to this, and truly something to be proud of.

When once upon a time all queer communities were forced, literally, underground, today not only are we largely accepted, but one could even describe this community as integrated. As Merideth Baxter once famously said on NBC, that 'coming out is a political act'—she meant that we are all poster-kids for gayness—that each time you foster understanding by example, the gay community gets a little bigger. We call these people (the ones who think the gay ain't so bad) allies. After all, by its very definition, queer is anything but exclusive.

Indeed, this community comes in all shapes, sizes and shades of fabulous. Some big bold and brazen, some buzzing away in the background—political, cultural, social, academic, lesbian, bisexual, gay or trans\*. We are all a part of a bigger picture, and anything we can do in our own bumbling, individual ways to keep queerness alive and kicking is a good thing, no matter how insignificant.

So, moral of this story? Get your fine asses to some queer stuff on campus! Cause we wouldn't be anything without you. Coming up soon:

**General Meetings**

**BYO Allies Night**

**Legalise Love**

**Safe Spaces**

**Girls' Group**

**And last but not least ...**

**UniQ Ball**



**Perretts Corner**  
CAFE & BAR

21st Birthday Package

- Complimentary Venue Hire
- Complimentary Projector + Screen
- Complimentary Bottle of Bubbles
- Complimentary Next Day Brunch (\$80 value)

Corner of Manners & Willis St  
PH: 04 385 1000  
Email: [info@perrettscorner.co.nz](mailto:info@perrettscorner.co.nz)  
Web: [www.perrettscorner.co.nz](http://www.perrettscorner.co.nz)



**Is your flat CRAP?**

**Greens@Vic want to help**

**FACEBOOK.COM/CRAPFLATCOMP**

Show us your damp, cold, crap flat and win prizes for your place. We'll help you warm it up, too.

Authorized by Jon Field, Level 2, 41 Garrett Street, Wellington.

**Green** PARTY NOW



# Identity, change or a decision

**IHAKA TUNUI**

"To be, or not to be; that is the question:  
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer  
The Slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,  
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,  
And, by opposing, end them." - Hamlet

**TO BE OR** not to be; that is the question: When people look at you, what is it that you want them to see? Who or what do you represent? And what are your beliefs? These questions can come with so many answers and yet, some of those answers are hidden behind a hidden truth. In the past many of us have either been victims of bullying, or been the bullies ourselves, unaware of the story behind the facts. This was mainly due to being different or standing out. Some people would say that life gets better beyond school, others—growing up you are tasked with so much more responsibility. But whilst growing up is your identity forgotten, in search of, or finally found?

A lot of people 'discover themselves' at University, whereas others study for exams and this thing called a 'degree'. Almost every day students and staff alike will pick up *Salient*, read through certain articles that could have the most mundane points imaginable and discard it later through the day. So that article will not dish out any answers to people that are seeking, rather it is written with one real thought in mind: To be or not to be, or in plain language, to accept or not to accept, the change and difference in society. Things change and as the human race we learn to accept and adapt to such change, but at times change becomes a thing that can threaten us. Society may change, but do we become sheep and trail behind it like everything is going to be A-OK?

"I said I'm sorry mama, I never meant to hurt you, I never meant to make you cry, but tonight I'm cleanin' out my closet" - Eminem



Coming out of the closet is a somewhat lighter term than that of modern slang, but what else can be said if not to offend or choose a side—for or against. It's not just people's identity or how they change that defines who they are but it is by the actions from their decisions that write the book people will read.

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." - Martin Luther King Jr

Subtract the children from this equation and look at it like one people. Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream that his nation would become one people, that his race would not be judged by their colour but by their character. Now looking at Aotearoa and the people here, to be judged on the outside or by the way people walk or talk is unfair in itself. Are we to become one people no matter the identity some take or the change some go through with? Fates cards are in your hand, it is by your decisions will we see the outcome. \*

Edited by STELLA BLAKE-KELLY

# HOLY STUDENT

*Also, VUWSA AGM Occurs*

**NATALIE POWLESLAND**

Last Thursday VUWSA held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) which resulted in a lively debate and a number of changes being made to the association.

The meeting began when a quorum of 100 students was reached at 1.15pm. Of the executive, only VUWSA Education Officer Jen Fellows was absent and provided her apologies.

The meeting quickly moved through the procedural items on the agenda, passing the 2010 AGM Minutes, the 2011 VUWSA Half-Year Report and the Statement of Accounts in quick succession.

One student raised concern about students' ability to really scrutinise the Half-Year Report.

"It's a pretty detailed document... it would be good to have [more than] half an hour or so to read it first," he said.



# FUCKING SHIT ENTS EAT PIZZA

VUWSA President Seamus Brady said the reports would ideally be available earlier and blamed the delay on "production problems."

At this point, the meeting shifted to technological problems as Brady failed to successfully change his powerpoint slide.

"The technology appears to have broken," he told students.

The meeting then considered the proposed changes to VUWSA's Constitution. The first was uncontroversial and students voted to support the title change from Vice-President (Education) to Vice-President (Academic).

There was a certain irony in the second amendment which saw Vice President (Administration) Daniel Wilson speak in favour of disestablishing his own position. Students supported the change which will see this position be replaced with the position of Treasurer in 2012.

Technical changes were also made to allow students the option of voting 'no confidence' in VUWSA elections when voting for the Publications Committee Representative and the University Council Representative.

The final change to be approved was to allow online voting for motions in Special

Representative Councils, which received considerable debate.

At this stage one hungry student asked Brady, "Hey man, when's the feed?"

Following this interruption, Brady attempted to move that all constitutional changes be adopted but stumbled over the motion and was saved only by Clubs Officer Jeremy 'Jezza' Peters, who managed to successfully express himself.

Daniel Wilson then moved a motion that VUWSA award Dave Guerin life membership, which was passed. Guerin is the current Chairman of the VUWSA Trust and was president of VUWSA in 1993.

The meeting then moved to other business which allowed students present to engage in significant debate.

VUWSA Queer Officer Tom Reed moved that VUWSA actively support the Legalise Love Campaign. This campaign seeks equality in marriage and adoption laws for same-sex couples as well as preventing homophobic bullying.

A motion was also put forward by student Stella Blake-Kelly which asked that VUWSA engage in a consultation process with students over the potential changes to the

association, should it be forced to operate in an environment of voluntary student membership. It also asked for any recommendations from this consultation to be voted upon by students at a general meeting.

Both of these motions were met with considerable debate but were eventually passed.

The meeting was closed at 2.01pm which was the cue for students to dash for the free pizza, Red Bull and sausage sizzle.

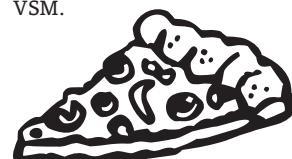
"I had to wait an hour for this pizza so I'm glad there was lots," said one student.

Some students were satisfied with the meeting. "I am really glad the Legalise Love thing passed, it's a great cause," said one such student.

Others were less impressed.

"At times they appeared to have no idea what they were supposed to be doing," the student said.

The article on page 10 provides more information concerning the debate around motions on online voting, Legalise Love and VSM.



# Salient Rates VUWSA Execs Half-Yearly Work Reports

ELLE HUNT, STELLA BLAKE-KELLY & MOLLY MCCARTHY



## Seamus Brady, President

Prez Seamus has done, in his own words, "lots" so far this year, and indeed, there's no obvious padding in his extensive, 15-page work report. That he's often in his office until 10pm, his dedication to the role. Seamus has continued to improve the relationship between VUWSA and the University; overseen the best O Week festival in the country; and actively worked on improving engagement and communication between VUWSA and students. He's represented students' interests on a number of national boards, and moreover, he's fulfilled the diplomatic part of presidency very well—especially compared to his predecessor Max "Power" Hardy. But for reasons unknown—perhaps lack of confidence, or a sense of resignation to the inevitable—he has been unwilling to do much more than go with the tide. Seamus has failed to rock the boat, even though the likely implementation of Voluntary Student Membership next year has meant that it really was necessary. Looking at the media coverage that Otago University Students' Association president Logan Edgar managed to reel in for the CSM cause, he could have been a little more outspoken. Overall, though, Seamus has been an excellent captain, keeping VUWSA on an even keel after many years of stormy weather. If Max and Seamus' legacy is upheld next year, VUWSA is in good hands.

**Rating: 4/5**

**Fun fact:** Seamus' office is full of dead ladybirds!



## Bridie Hood, Vice-President (Education)

Bridie, the star of VUWSA 2011, is in the Association for all the right reasons. Consequently, her work report reflects work that she has done: there's no sense that she is exaggerating her achievements. She has single-handedly revitalised the class representative system, transforming it from a token, tiresome gesture at the start of each course to a real, legitimate chance for students to have their voices heard. In Trimester 1 of this year, 91 per cent of classes had class reps, and just under 80 per cent of them attended a class rep training session; there are now even scholarships to reward them for going above and beyond the call of 'class rep' duty. That's huge, and that's more or less entirely Bridie's doing. She's been a genuine advocate for students, and has ensured that they have a real, legitimate voice within the University. So far this year, Bridie has clearly been Seamus' right-hand woman, following on from a relationship they built in the Vice-Presidents' office last year. This goes to show what can happen when people see VUWSA as an ongoing commitment, rather than a year-long term. Bridie is passionate, tuned-in to other parts of student culture and society, and genuinely believes in the importance of VUWSA and tries to convince others of the same.

**Rating: 5/5**

**Fun fact:** Bridie looks a lot like Uther's sister Freya!



## Asher Emanuel, Vice-President (Welfare)

Asher is working on a huge deficit of hours that he is unlikely to make up over the course of the year. However, that he has managed to achieve such a considerable amount regardless highlights the flaws in VUWSA's quantitative methods of assessing work. Calculating work in hours encourages exec members to pad out their fortnightly work reports with 'tasks' such as responding to emails and checking voicemail messages. Asher's work to date proves that it is possible to make a difference within VUWSA despite apparently not being on top of his workload. Together with Welfare Officer Ta'aese Vaoga, Asher has improved the profile of VUWSA's welfare-related services (especially at the satellite campuses) immeasurably. It's also reassuring to see that he looked outside of Victoria University for ideas as to how to improve initiatives such as the VUWSA Food Bank. His position as a newcomer to VUWSA has enabled him to identify and address the Association's weaknesses clinically, efficiently and without undue emotion. Moreover, as was demonstrated at the VUWSA AGM last week, Asher—a DebSoc veteran—is easily the Association's most effective and convincing communicator. And today, more than ever before, VUWSA needs more effective and convincing communicators. Keep up the good work Emanuel.

**Rating: 3.5/5**

**Fun fact:** According to his IMDB profile (yes), Asher starred in an episode of *Shortland Street* in 2008 as 'Harley Henley'!



## Daniel Wilson, Vice-President (Admin)

Kudos to Daniel Wilson, this year's Vice-President (Admin), for admitting that his role is one of the most useless in the VUWSA exec. Vice-President (Admin) was first instated as a paid alternative to Treasurer, and has since become more or less redundant since VUWSA's appointment of a general manager at the end of 2009. Consequently, it will be dissolved next year. As the Association's final Vice-President (Admin), Wilson claims to have made VUWSA more accountable, and to have reduced expenditure on sports and cultural councils. He has also played a lot of *Minesweeper*. It is worth noting that one of Wilson's chief responsibilities was to organise and oversee the Publications Committee, which governs *Salient*, but he has failed to attend at least two meetings and has had minimal engagement with the publication. Also, he identified his sole weakness as an initial lack of institutional knowledge—though this has since been rectified. Phew! Daniel's done a passable job as VUWSA's last Vice-President (Admin), but not enough to convince us that the position needs to be retained in 2012—though this is more the institution's fault than his. Good on him for acknowledging this.

**Rating: 3/5**

**Fun fact:** Daniel is a big fan of Neil Patrick Harris!



## Jennifer Fellows, Education Officer

Education Officer Jennifer Fellows' relationship with Vice-President (Education) Bridie Hood has been the most efficient of the entire exec, with the two working to ensure quality academic support and representation for students. Jen has been proactive and helpful, as typified by her work on the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science and Faculty of Architecture and Design boards. Fellows is a worthy addition to the general exec team.

**Rating: 3/5**



## Ta'ase Vaoga, Welfare Officer

Working alongside Vice-President (Welfare) Asher Emanuel, Ta'ase has improved the profile of VUWSA's welfare services across Victoria University. She helped out with study week breakfasts and flu shots, and also organised a trip to Christchurch to help out post-earthquake. Vaoga has also enthusiastically contributed to other areas of VUWSA outside of welfare.

**Rating: 3/5**



## Jeremy "Jezza" Peters, Clubs Officer

As Clubs Officer, Jezza has had an active presence within VUWSA. He has ensured that the relationship between the Association and clubs has been smooth: both Clubs Week and his Meet and Greet were well-attended. He was also the sole exec member to give a detailed justification of his application for a bonus.

**Rating: 3/5**



## Campbell Herbert, Activities Officer

The 'wildcard' of the exec, Campbell resigned from VUWSA at the end of last trimester in order to go to Germany on exchange. His last column in *Salient* criticised the structure and functions of VUWSA, but this was seen as an extension of his trolling the exec in a misguided attempt to hold them accountable. In his half-year report, Herbert acknowledges his being "outspoken" as a weakness that "can often lead to dissent".

**Rating: 2/5**

**Fun fact:** Campbell Herbert appeared in an ad for cheese in a spray can called 'Mr Cheese'!



## Josh Van Veen, Campaigns Officer

Campaigns Officer Josh Van Veen started the year off well, organising a lively launch to the Education Action Group with guest speaker Winston Peters. However, the rest of Trimester 1 saw little promotion of public debate, though this is likely due to Van Veen's illness. This has also seen him miss half of the general exec meetings so far.

**Rating: 2.5/5**



## Tom Reed, Queer Rights Officer

Tom has had an active presence on campus, organising Pink Shirt Day, creating and facilitating the Safe Space training programme, and organising queer mentoring. His involvement with UniQ is obvious and commendable, but the promotion of their events could have been improved.

**Rating: 3/5**



## Haley Mortimer, Environmental Officer

Environmental issues have not featured prominently on campus so far this year, and Mortimer's designated Environment Week passed without comment. Perhaps more concerning is that this was not questioned by the general exec. Also: VUWSA has a vegetable garden?

**Rating: 2/5**



## Andy Gao, International Student Officer

The role of International Student Officer within VUWSA has always been problematic, and this year has been no different. The position aims to actively engage with international students, but international students' needs are dealt with primarily through a specific council, so it seems like the role exists purely for the sake of political correctness.

**Rating: 1.5/5**



## Necia Johnston, Women's Officer

As Women's Officer, Necia has continued with the initiatives her predecessor established in 2010. She has also mobilised and maintained a small group of interested individuals as part of VUWSA Women's Group, but this affects a small number of Victoria's student body, and it must be questioned whether the role of Women's Officer is worth retaining in the long-term.

**Rating: 2.5/5**

# Students defy apathy at AGM for one brief moment by actually discussing things

**VUWSA: "Not on our watch!"**

NATALIE POWLESLAND

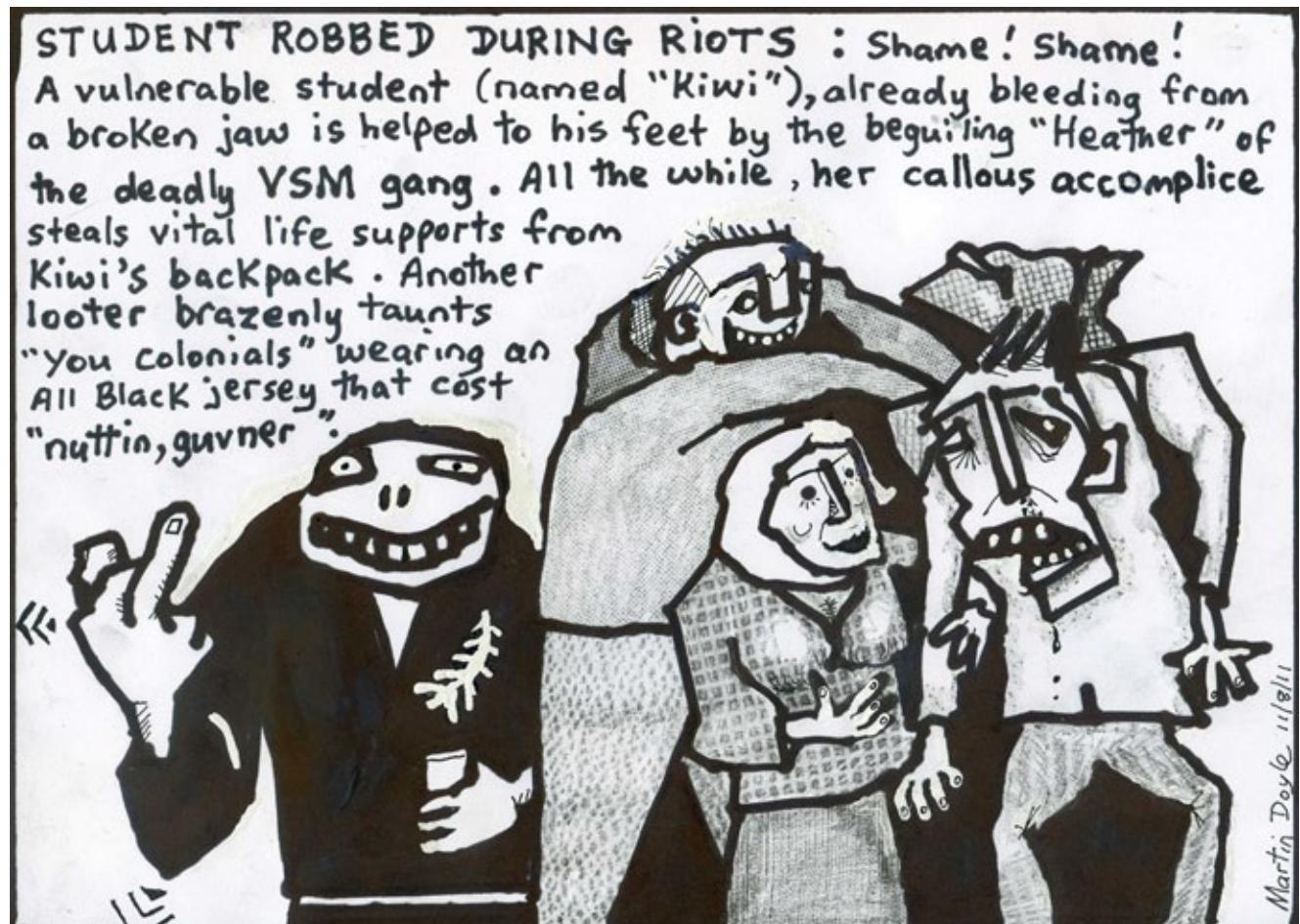
Students who attended VUWSA's AGM last week threw aside the mantle of student apathy and debated a number of important issues.

The first instance of this arose when it was moved that VUWSA's constitution be amended to create an online voting system for Special Representative Councils (SRCs).

The amendment means that a motion which is put forward at an SRC can be voted on by students through an online system. If a motion is put at a physical SRC with at least 20 people, the motion can be debated and then put electronically to students. They will be emailed a link to a voting page, along with any relevant documents and video footage of the meeting.

For the motion to be approved, it requires support from a simple majority of 5 per cent (approximately 1000) of VUWSA's members.

When this issue was opened to the floor for discussion, one student expressed concern for the requirement of 100 students' signatures to call an SRC. She believed this was a potentially unattainable target for minority groups who may wish to pass a motion without the support of the executive.



Others in the crowd believed the target was set at a reasonable level.

"It seems reasonable relative to the whole Vic population," they said.

VUWSA President Seamus Brady acknowledged the concerns but emphasised that the new online system would only really be used a last resort.

"It is really to provide better scrutiny of the issue as a safeguard," he said.

"I'm very pleased that the motion allows for online SRC voting to be passed, as it will allow more students to actively engage in the policy setting of the Association and for that policy to be more robust and representative," Brady told *Salient*.

Debate occurred again when VUWSA Queer Officer Tom Reed moved a motion for VUWSA to "actively support" the Legalise Love campaign. Legalise Love has been established to lobby for equal marriage and adoption laws for same-sex couples, as well as to oppose homophobic bullying.

Many students felt they needed more information about the campaign before they could decide if they wanted VUWSA to support it. Others were also concerned that "active support" would translate to financial support.

Vice-President (Welfare) Asher Emanuel pointed out that the goal of equality was already a principle held by VUWSA.

"The campaign's principles align with VUWSA already... it doesn't have

any secret campaigning strategy like burning down buildings... if they do begin to act in this way, we can vote again to remove our support," he said.

Finally, students engaged in discussion over VUWSA's plans to respond to function under Voluntary Student Membership.

Student Stella Blake-Kelly moved a motion that VUWSA engage in a consultation process with students over the potential changes to the association in light of VSM.

She further moved that the recommendations made in this process be voted on by students at a future general meeting.

"The debate is no longer if VSM is coming, but when," she said. "And VUWSA has not yet presented students with options of how it could function in a voluntary environment."

Some within VUWSA took issue with Blake-Kelly's claim that VUWSA has not been planning for VSM.

"VUWSA has been consulting with the university but for many reasons, some legal, these plans have not been communicated with students," said Emanuel.

Brady also stated that the University, "a slow-moving beast", is unwilling to take action on the issue until the law is passed and it is certain that VSM will eventuate.

Despite the lively discussion over these issues, all passed with a large majority.



## MOLLY MCCARTHY

### Man attempts to split atom in kitchen

*Throws sharp knife around, hopes for the best*

A Swedish man was arrested late last month when he was found attempting to split the atom in his home kitchen.

Richard Handl, who only created the nuclear reactor as a hobby, was charged with unauthorised possession of nuclear material when police were sent to his home by Sweden's Radiation Authority. Handl had contacted the authority when he realised that his pastime might not actually be legal.

"I have always been interested in physics and chemistry," Handl said, following his arrest.

"From now on, I will stick to theory."

Although Handl had created a small meltdown on his stove, police did not detect dangerous levels of radiation in his apartment. Charges have not yet been pressed, but if convicted, Handl could face up to two years in prison.

### Conservative relative discovers that young woman is having "the sex"

*NZ Herald has shockingly slow news week*

A New Zealand woman found out the hard way last week that her 28-year-old relative was in fact sexually active, when she made news headlines for her "sex romp" accident.

Amy Ramage is reported to have nearly severed her hand when she fell and sliced her wrist on the broken edge of a basin, while having sex during a yachting holiday in Croatia.

An unnamed relative of Ramage later came to her defense, doubting the more raunchy elements of the story.

"She's a good Christian girl. I've known her all her life and she has strong principles ... I just can't believe it. It doesn't sound like Amy at all."

Since the story first broke at the start of the month there has been no official comment from Ramage, despite the media frenzy the sordid tale has created.

*The New Zealand Herald* managed to occupy three of their journalists with the mini-scandal, with one story reaching a whopping 450 words, which included extensive and largely irrelevant information about her professional history.

**Free Examination  
for Students**

**Same Appointment  
Clean \$45**

**Xrays \$10 each**

**L Ross Jackson**  
**DENTAL SURGEON**

**Level 4 Baldwins Centre**  
**342 Lambton Quay Wellington**  
**Phone/fax: 499-1769**  
**Email: lrjackson@xtra.co.nz**

# Live Tweeting the Candidates Forum

Last Monday candidates for the Wellington Central electorate flocked to Victoria University to make themselves seem relevant to the 'yoof', in the hope of attracting their vote in the November general election.

The tweets cover topics such as youth unemployment, educational opportunities, investment in student membership, overstatement in politics, tertiary education funding, river destruction, and child poverty. Some tweets include small profile pictures of the speakers.

Putting their hearts on the line were current Wellington Central MP, Grant Robertson (Labour); Paul Foster-Bell (National); James Shaw (Greens); Doug Stevens (United Future), and introducing the latest attempt by New Zealand First to appeal to a younger demographic—Ben Craven (at least the quarter the age of the average New Zealand First voter). Noticeably absent was ACT Party hopeful Peter McCaffrey, who found himself without a leg to stand on.

In lieu of actual journalism, *Salient* went along and tweeted their little hearts out. Here's what went down.



# VICTORIA TO BE PRIVATISED?

*Or whatever the opposite of that is?*

**EDWARD WARREN**

**VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF** Wellington students this week were outraged to learn of National's plan to alter the ownership of their university, following extensive meetings with the Vice-Chancellor, Paul Welch.

The details of the 'change of hands' deal were included in a broad proposal released to the press last Thursday covering National's intentions for the tertiary education providers of New Zealand, which they would implement in their next term, if re-elected.

The proposal, while being vague as to whether the assets were to be sold to private companies or bought as national assets, included plans of privatising at least two of the country's internationally respected universities, Victoria and Otago, and up to even as many as eight of the country's well-regarded polytechs.

The project has not been exhaustively detailed in the face of the media, and political commentator Bronson Halliday has recommended that the National party go about remedying this uncertainty so as to quell the growing feeling of civil unrest, and to clarify whether it is that they will be privatising or nationalising the tertiary institutions in question.

"The current government are facing a lot of questions which need to be answered. Primarily, is Victoria currently private or is it a national asset? There's been a lot of water-cooler talk here at the Dom Post and no one seems to be certain of the nature of the current situation."

Halliday went on, "regardless of whether the universities and polytechs are currently privately or nationally owned, I think one thing is clear, which is that if National are planning on buying them as national assets, or selling them off as private assets, it's just going to be further proof that National are spineless bastards with no bloody idea on how to run a country."

The public sentiment on the matter seems to consist of questions such as 'what is nationalisation?', 'why is the government trying to rob me?' and 'if the University is privatised, will we be required to wear University uniforms, like at private schools?'

Conversely, Victoria's Student Liaison Officers are scrambling to establish whether, if Victoria is already privatised, everyone should already be wearing uniforms, and whether that means that Victoria students will get an extra week of holidays in September. \*

Email snippets of life at Vic to [editor@salient.org.nz](mailto:editor@salient.org.nz) with 'Overheard' in the subject line, or find Overheard @ Vic on Facebook



**Student 1:** "Say something smart"  
**Student 2:** "Go all biochemistry on his ass"  
**Student 3:** "RELEASE YOUR BIOFUEL"

ANEESHA BUDHIA

**Student in LAWS 123 class:** "Do dolphins come onto land?"

EVELYN BRADLEY

**Student in PSYC 122:** "What are the effects of the rate of taking drugs through the anal cavity?"

STOVEY REKATSINAS

**Tutor in BIOL 241:** "It's hard to get virgin females."

CALEB MEADE

**PHIL 105 tutor after starting a class discussion on what students would do in a zombie**

**apocalypse:** "What relevance does this question have to Philosophy? None at all, I just wanted to ask it"

STUART BAST BAKER

**Buff Guy 1:** "Far, it's mean sunny today ae bro!"

**Buff Guy 2:** "Fuckn sweet day to hang out some washing"

**Buff Guy 1:** "Hard out bro."

SEAN K. BRENNAN

**In the cemetery:** "...and he said "Where should I put it?" and I said "ooOh just in the hole under my knee"

SAM JEAN-LÉWIS 'DINOCOP' McAVINUE-NORTHCOTT

**Guy 1:** "It was true."

**Guy 2:** "Did it have David Attenborough in it?"

**Guy 1:** "Well... no."

**Guy 2:** "Well, then it's not a real documentary, is it?"

LAUREN CARTER

**MATH 142 Lecturer:** "Who is ugly here?"

SEAN CONNOLLEY

**Girl ordering noodles at Hot Wok:** "I'll have the, um... Nazi goreng."

MICHI LANGDON

**CLAS105 Lecturer:** "If I kill myself, there's no lecture on Wednesday."

SOPHIE WEBBER

**On the overbridge:** "We should feed criminals to polar bears to support the polar bear population"

JEVEY CHAMRITSKI



## Politics WITH Paul

# The Economic Flu

**PAUL COMRIE-THOMSON, THAT IS**

It's been a tumultuous couple of weeks. First there was the US debt-crisis, which alone was absolutely astounding in its development.

**THEN THERE WAS** the subsequent announcement from international credit ratings agency Standard & Poors (S&P), reducing the credit rating of the world's largest economy from AAA to AA+. Furthermore, accompanying the credit downgrade, the US has been put on a negative outlook, increasing the likelihood of further downgrades.

As the old adage goes: When America sneezes, the world catches a cold.

So, where does this leave New Zealand, and more specifically, the Government?

In the wake of the NZ sharemarket plummeting to an 11-month low last Monday, both John Key, and his Minister of Finance Bill English are stressing the country is well placed to weather this kind of economic storm. The same international credit rating agency that downgraded the US, isn't so sure though.

S&P have identified NZ's balance sheet as continuing to bear "the scars of the recent downturn," recognising that the country is significantly vulnerable in the wake of the current strife in the financial markets.

This is primarily because NZ's reliance on foreign debt means the country might find it hard to roll over current debt, and that the country could face further weakening demand for exports. This of course, is a strain that has been felt for weeks now, as a result of the high value of the New Zealand Dollar that had reached above 88 US cents before dropping back again last week.

S&P already put NZ on a negative outlook at the end of last year, warning of a potential downgrade in the country's credit rating. If this were to happen, the cost of borrowing would increase across the economy, severely hindering economic recovery. The fact Bill English has managed to stave this off, despite the \$380 million a week the Government was borrowing until recently, is a credit to his economic management, and there's the crux.

This election will be fought and won on one platform only. To borrow Bill Clinton's laboured catch phrase from the 1992 US Presidential Election: "It's the economy, stupid."



Voters will reward in November that party who they deem most fit to manage the country's economy. Global economic events notwithstanding, one might expect, therefore, that National would be punished for pulling the economy into a deficit, which by the Government's current projections, won't be dealt with until 2015.

But, as political journalist Ian Llewellyn explains, "The problem for National's opponents is that most voters don't seem to hold them responsible for the economic conditions, and polls indicate that (people think) National are better managers, even if they don't entirely agree with their prescription."

People trust Bill English. They trust John Key, and the success the Prime Minister has had in labelling Labour as the party of 'tax and spend', has only served to strengthen voter loyalty.

That's not to say Labour doesn't have any good ideas. The proposal of a capital gains tax is long overdue, and is an eventual inevitability in NZ. It's just that the voters don't find Goff & Co. to be a credible option in terms of economic management in 2011.

One of the most noteworthy political effects of the current market woes has been on National's controversial asset sales policy. The state of the international financial markets has helped Phil Goff gain some traction on his opposition to the proposal. As he points out, assets can only be sold once, and the prospect of selling them in a depressed market simply adds further flaws to the proposal.

However, while Key has admitted there may be a delay of a few months, the Government's plans are still firmly on the table. If Key gets the mandate in November through a return to power, 49 per cent of Mighty Power River, Meridian, Genesis Energy and Solid Energy will be up for grabs.

Further consequences of the international turmoil will no doubt trickle down over the next few weeks and months, and while it will be interesting to note the effects on the domestic political situation, don't hold your breath for any reversal in the polls. \*



# It's my world that I want to have a little pride in

**CONRAD REYNERS**

It's hard to know where to begin when discussing homosexuality and the law. As a tool of social control, the law has played a role in the subjugation and then liberation of those in the queer community.

**THROUGHOUT NEW ZEALAND'S** history homosexuals have felt the harsh sting of injustice. Here, consenting homosexual acts were illegal until 1986. In the United States, it wasn't until the Supreme Court decision of *Lawrence v Texas* in 2003 that homosexual acts were federally legalised. Only a few US states have recognised a homosexual couple's right to marry—which is something New Zealand has yet to achieve.

But it's not all been bad news. The Civil Union Act 2004 was welcomed, as was the inclusion of homophobia as an aggravating factor in sentencing. In 2009 Parliament abolished the discriminatory partial defence of provocation, which let homophobic killers get away with murder. And while our adoption laws still discriminate unfairly, the recent decision of *Re AMM & KJO*, and Labour MP Jacinda Ardern's private members bill to reform adoption laws, all indicate that change is coming.

Those that protest against the realisation of full equality for human beings are on the wrong side of history. But that still does not stop me from feeling nervous about the backlash that the queer movement inexorably faces.

An example comes from São Paulo in Brazil. Last week, the city's Council voted to establish a "heterosexual pride day". The event, supported by evangelical Christians, was to celebrate the rights of heterosexuals. The organisers were quick to claim that it was not a homophobic attack, but instead was a way to "end the excesses and privileges of gay rights". This is not just a Brazilian view. Arguments against Auckland's now defunct Hero parade faced the same kind of thinly veiled homophobia.



I was deeply concerned by the developments in São Paulo. Part of me was simply confused—the day didn't seem necessary, isn't every day heterosexual pride day? *Stuff.co.nz*'s "week of weddings" seemed to imply it is. Why is a special day required? And part of me was slightly angry. As a gay man myself I am naturally alarmed by any attempts to downplay and marginalise who I am, and who others are.

But my real concern was more fundamental. The attempt to celebrate the 'normalcy' of heterosexuality—in order to end the excesses and privileges of homosexuals—displayed a fundamental misunderstanding of human rights and minority protection.

To characterise pride marches as exhibitions of queer opulence seriously misses the point. That's not what they are for. Granted, they are often flamboyant affairs. But so what? So is Mardi Gras. So is the Sevens Parade.

But unlike those things, pride events serve a deeper social purpose. They act as a community statement to heterosexuals and to homosexuals. One

**“**We are here and we are normal. We are like you. Please accept us. And please accept yourself

In a democracy, where the majority vote rules at the expense of the minority the queer community needs to

do this. It's imperative to our survival, and to the recognition of our basic equality. The purpose of public statements of one's difference is not to marginalise or to create division, it's precisely the opposite. It's to remind heterosexuals of the difference that exists, and to celebrate inclusion and tolerance. But it only works in that way because queers are a social minority. It is not a two way street—and it won't be until every single legal, social and cultural prejudice has been eradicated.

The law has an important role in play in that. Its job is to protect the weak from the strong; to protect the few from the many; to promote equality and fairness. As Justice Albie Sachs said in *Fourie v Home Affairs* "equality means equal concern and respect across difference. It does not presuppose the elimination of difference. Respect for human rights requires the affirmation of self, not the denial of self. Difference should not be the basis for exclusion or stigma. Equality celebrates the vitality that difference brings to any society."

And that's why loud voices, legal activism and street parades are so important. ✌

# Going to The chapel

SELINA POWELL

The legalisation of gay marriage in New York has given momentum to the international debate on same-sex unions.

**F**ollowing euphoric scenes in America with tears, mass engagements and public declarations of love, countries across the world are reassessing their recognition of same-sex partnerships. Is conferring the legal rights of marriage on civil unions the best way to achieve justice? Or is the only path to equality down the marriage aisle with lace, church, priest and cultural baggage in tow? With these dilemmas gaining publicity in an election year, *Salient* feature writer, **Selina Powell**, talks to your democratic representatives about the issue.

## Civil Unions—the Same Legal Rights?

New Zealand law does not allow gay and lesbian couples to marry, but provides for same-sex couples to enter civil unions. Those against further extending recognition of same-sex relationships have argued that the current rights couples have under civil unions are sufficient, and that married couples are treated in the same way by the law.

Bill Atkin, Relationship Property and Family Law lecturer at Victoria, notes that there are two differences in the way that the law treats a civil union when compared to a marriage. The most significant difference is that a married couple can adopt, while a civil union couple cannot. While not solely discriminating against same-sex couples (heterosexual de facto and civil union couples cannot adopt children), the brunt of this provision impacts on the gay community.

Grant Robertson, Labour MP for Wellington Central, explains that over 100 pieces of legislation were amended to provide equal rights for civil union couples when the Civil Union Act was introduced. However, the Adoption Act was seen to be so outdated that a comprehensive overhaul was needed, not just the inclusion of civil unions.

While successive Governments have failed to implement these changes, Charles Chauvel, Labour Spokesperson for Justice, says that



the Labour party is focused on eliminating the inequalities between civil unions and marriages. Chauvel has drafted a private member's bill to update adoption laws for Labour MP, Jacinda Ardern, which he says is widely supported by the Labour caucus. Kevin Hague, Greens MP is also advocating for comprehensive adoption reform which would enable same-sex couples to adopt.

## A Long Engagement

Despite inequalities in the rights of married couples when compared with civil union couples, advocating for same-sex marriage is not the highest priority for Greens or Labour. National continues its deafening silence on the issue.

Although Chauvel believes that, "every lawful relationship deserves the full protection of the law", the current priority for Labour is to confer the rights of marriage on civil unions, rather than initiating a separate campaign for same-sex marriages.

This policy has been developed in consultation with rainbow communities according to Chauvel. He notes that if further talks revealed a preference for a marriage equality campaign, "we would review our approach, and I would personally be supportive, but that has not been the view expressed to us to date."

Hague supports gay marriage but has chosen to focus on other campaigns while the composition of Parliament makes successful marriage reform unlikely.

"Eventually I believe that New Zealand will legalise gay marriage (or alternatively repeal the Marriage Act, making marriage itself a religious-only institution) but I don't think it's going to happen any time soon. I'd say at least five years away and more likely ten or more."

Hague says that his highest priority at the moment is to create a more supportive environment for young people coming out. Several Rainbow Greens initiatives are based around this aim.

Perhaps the largest hurdle to the introduction of gay marriage in New Zealand is the high level of Government apathy on the issue. Most National MPs, including John Key, voted against the Civil Union Act when it was enacted in 2004. Chris Tremain, National MP for Napier, says that National has "no policy" on same-sex marriage and that each MP is free to make their own decision on the issue if a bill comes before Parliament.

## Public Views on Same Sex Marriage

An independent public poll on same sex marriage conducted by Research New Zealand in the wake of events in New York found that 60 per cent of New Zealanders over 18 believe that same-sex marriages should be permitted in New Zealand. The poll found that females and younger age groups were more likely to favour gay marriage. Research New Zealand Director, Emanuel Kalafatelis, observed in a media release that the findings show "attitudes in this area are in advance of legislation".

However, Family First NZ disputes this view on the basis of a study which it commissioned through another independent research organisation, Curia Market Research. The Curia Poll found that only 42 per cent disagreed with continuing to restrict the definition of marriage to a union between a man and woman.

Bob McCoskrie, National Director of Family First, says that these results are, "in direct contrast to the 60 per cent support for gay marriage argued by Research NZ". McCoskrie notes that, "politicians would do well to progress slowly on this issue rather than capitulate to strong lobbying to change the definition."

A possible explanation for the difference between the polls, is that while the Research NZ poll is proportionate to the New Zealand population, only 25 per cent of those polled by Curia were between the ages of 18 and 45. According to Statistics New Zealand figures, around 45 per cent of the New Zealand adult population falls into this age bracket.

David Farrar, from Curia Market Research, concedes that young New Zealanders, who are more likely to support same-sex marriage, are under represented in the poll. However, Farrar notes that as fewer young New Zealanders vote, this poll is more representative of the New Zealand voting population. He also observes that women were over represented in the survey (at 57 per cent), and generally women are more likely to support same-sex marriage.

## Redefining Marriage?

Family First has frequently expressed opposition to same-sex marriage. McCoskrie argues that including couples of the same sex within marriage would infringe on traditional definitions of marriage. He contends that, "Equality does not mean we must redefine marriage for everyone."

McCoskrie does not think that prohibiting same-sex marriage discriminates against the gay community. He also questions whether the 'all love is equal' campaign is a sound one in support of same-sex marriage.

"Same-sex people cannot now legally marry. But neither can a whole lot of people. A five-year old boy cannot marry. Three people cannot get married to each other. A married man cannot marry another person. A child cannot marry her pet goldfish."



“ In New Zealand it appears that marriage equality is at least a change of Government away

Hague emphatically rejects the view that allowing same-sex couples to marry would undermine marriage.

“On the contrary, I maintain that any state sanctioning of relationships that exclude some couples who love each other is cheapened by its embedded prejudice. Marriage is worth more and is more meaningful if all couples who love each other can marry.”

The symbolism of denying same-sex couples the right to marry is important, according to Hague.

“Making the ultimate form of state approval of a loving relationship unavailable to same sex couples signals very powerfully that we remain second class citizens, with our relationships not as valuable as those of our heterosexual fellow citizens.”

### Gay Marriage v Equal Rights for Civil Unions

Some argue that if a couple can receive the same rights within a civil union as within a marriage, there is no harm to society in restricting the right to marry to heterosexual couples. If same-sex marriage was allowed, it is likely that many gay and lesbian couples would continue to enter civil unions because of their secular nature, just as many heterosexual couples currently choose civil unions over marriage.

Peter Tatchell, Australian-born gay rights advocate, has argued for the right to marry in the Sydney Star Observer, despite the fact that Tatchell does not personally wish to marry.

“Personally, I don't like marriage. I share the feminist critique of its history of sexism and patriarchy. I would not want to get married. But as a democrat and human rights defender, I support the right of others to marry, if they wish. Everyone should have a choice.”

The American Psychological Association has recently called for both state and federal officials to legalise same-sex marriage. The recommendations of the Association are based in research which found that prohibiting gay marriage causes increased rates of stress amongst gay and lesbian communities which expose individuals to a higher risk of physical and mental illness.

The APA has rejected civil unions as sufficient state recognition of same-sex unions. Clinton Anderson, a Spokesperson for the APA, told CNN at the beginning of this month that, “Anything other than marriage is, in essence, a stigmatisation of same-sex couples. Stigma does have negative impacts on people.”

### Living The Dream

A question that remains is how long same-sex couples will have to wait before they receive full legal acceptance from their state, whether in the form of a civil union or marriage. In New Zealand it appears that marriage equality is at least a change of Government away. With equal rights through civil unions on the agenda for both Labour and Greens, this is more likely to be the form of state recognition for same-sex unions.

While civil unions might be the pragmatic route to equality, for many marriage conveys a universal, historic affirmation of love which cannot be replaced by a state construct.

As Thatchell notes, “Marriage is the internationally recognised system of relationship recognition. It is the global language of love. When we were young, most of us dreamed of one day getting married. We didn't dream about having a civil partnership.” \*

Warrant of Fitness due?

FlyBuys

Bring in your StudentCard to  
**Save \$5**  
on your Warrant of Fitness  
(on Tues, Wed & Thurs)

And, if you come in on a Tuesday during  
August you'll collect 10 Fly Buys Points



Go to [www.vtnz.co.nz](http://www.vtnz.co.nz)  
or call 0800 88 88 69  
to find your nearest VTNZ

vtnz

Check in... drive on...

Ten Point Tuesday offer valid from 2 to 30 August 2011. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other VTNZ Fly Buys promotion.

VE15121

# Master Your Destiny.



## Melbourne Course Information Sessions

Monday 22 August, 7 – 8.30pm

**Mercure Auckland,  
8 Customs Street, Auckland, New Zealand**

Come and talk to the University of Melbourne about our undergraduate study options and graduate programs in over 340 different areas at our annual information session for future students and their families.

Register online at  
[www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/newzealand](http://www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/newzealand)

CRICOS: 00116K Z0170210S

**dream large**



# THE SCIENCE



## of Sexuality

MATTHEW ELLISON

It's pretty well established that queer people are 'born this way', but why is this so? What happens before birth that makes us attracted to different genders? Are there environmental factors that can influence sexuality after birth? Here comes the science you've been waiting for!

**I**t seems pretty safe to say that if there was conclusive evidence that a single factor causes homosexuality, you would have heard about it. A while back the media got quite excited about a so-called 'gay gene', but this makes as much sense as referring to a 'height gene' or a 'skin colour gene'. This is because these traits are influenced by more than one gene.

There are real, physical differences in the brains of men—there are far fewer studies done on women's sexuality, but that doesn't mean that there aren't differences in the brains of women either—which change the way they react to pheromones. These are chemicals which trigger a response in other individuals. For instance, it has been found that gay men, when exposed to a testosterone-related pheromone in male sweat, had a region of their brain—their hypothalamus, if you're interested—activated, and heterosexual men had the same region activated when exposed to a pheromone similar to oestrogen found in female urine. The hypothalamus doesn't react this way to normal smells, only to sexual ones, so this is pretty compelling evidence that the gays aren't just pretending.

In fact, there are many physiological differences between heterosexuals and non-heterosexuals such as differing sizes of brain hemispheres, responses to certain chemicals and activity of different brain regions. Homosexuals of both genders are significantly more likely to be left-handed or ambidextrous than heterosexuals, and this phenomenon appears to be linked to birth order—see next paragraph—In short, there are many physical differences that clearly illustrate that queer people are different from heterosex-

als in more ways than which gender we are sexually attracted to. Wikipedia (so shoot me) has a list of these in its article entitled *Biology and Sexuality*.

One of the most significant statistical factors influencing sexuality in males is birth order. Sometimes called the older brother effect, this phenomenon has been identified from studies which show that the more older brothers a male has, the more likely it is he will be a homosexual adult. This effect is stronger than you might expect; each older brother increases a man's odds of being homosexual by 28-48 per cent.

A proposed explanation for the older brother effect is the maternal immune hypothesis which suggests that the mother grows more immune to male antigens (more technical shit: antigens are chemicals related to the immune system) with each pregnancy, and so produces more 'anti-male' antibodies. This phenomenon seems linked to handedness too; it looks as though it only applies to right-handed men.

An oversimplified evolutionary crash course: if you have more children, you have more grandchildren, more great-grandchildren etc., so if you have a combination of genes which allows you to reproduce to a greater extent, then those super-reproductive genes will be passed on to future generations and those offspring will be more evolutionary successful too—evolutionary successfullness is essentially how many offspring you have, or more accurately, how much your genes proliferate.

So what about genes which contribute to homosexuality? If you only sleep with people of the same gender, you don't have babies, so your gay genes don't get anywhere and die out, right? At first glance homosexuality seems to be something which would be selected against, a reproductive disadvantage which natural selection would come down on like a (metric) tonne of bricks and crush before it even gets going.

Well, to a certain extent, it does, but it's not as simple as that. Hold on, this shit's about to get technical.

It is thought that while (currently unidentified) genes which predispose to homosexuality reduce reproductive success if an individual with those genes is homosexual, the same genes could confer a reproductive advantage when carried by heterosexual people. This means that while these genes might sometimes reduce reproductive rates (by making gays), they can also increase them in other situations, so they remain at their relatively high proportions in the gene pool. This idea runs along the lines that a straight man with some 'gay genes' might be more sensitive to a woman's perspective, get on with her better and consequently have a better chance of getting it on (this is very similar to an explanation for bisexuality). Similarly, it's been found that female relatives of gay men on their mother's side tend to have more offspring, which could indicate that women carrying some combination of 'gay man genes' are more fertile, which may well more than offset the lack of reproduction from gay males. This also indicates that some of these genes could be carried on the X chromosome.

Another possible explanation is the 'gay uncle' hypothesis which suggests that people who do not reproduce may still confer an advantage on their close relatives by helping them in the raising of their children, providing resources such as food, shelter, defence etc. The siblings of the 'gay uncle' will always share a high number of genes with him, so even though the gay uncle has no offspring directly, he is helping many of his own genes survive in his nephews' and nieces' bodies.

“The second dose of testosterone which would normally set the brain along a male development path never arrived

### Those are some possible explanations for why homosexuality exists, but what about the how?

A foetus is by default female, but early on in pregnancy, if the child will be male (has a Y chromosome), sexual organs are differentiated—the first such event happens at seven weeks—that is to say, if the foetus will be born a male, its sexual organs will begin developing as male ones rather than the default female ones. This is initiated by hormone (signalling chemicals such as testosterone) doses from the mother. We can all see that men and women have their brains organised differently, and in fact many of these differences are hard-wired before birth. Brain differentiation occurs later in development than sexual organ differentiation, and so the two processes can sometimes move in different directions. Many changes brought about during brain differentiation are permanent and the brain's 'circuitry' is laid down, but a lot of the differences don't become apparent until later in life. During puberty in males, when sexuality emerges, the raised levels of testosterone activate these pre-programmed circuits and behavioural patterns which were built in during brain development.

These differences in brain structure between the sexes, which are caused not just by hormones but also by their interaction between genes and developing brain cells, are thought to be the basis of differences in sexual behaviours, such as sexual orientation and gender identity. It's pretty easy to see how transsexualism could result from this process: a male body, with a Y chromosome, has male sexual organs determined early on in development. However, for some reason the second dose of testosterone which would normally set the brain along a male development path never arrives. This causes the brain to develop along a female path instead, resulting in a female person in a male body, or vice versa.

If you found this interesting I would encourage you to read Wikipedia's articles on *Biology and Sexuality*, *Prenatal Hormones and Sexual Orientation* (a more technical one), *Bisexuality*, and *Homosexual behaviour in animals*. There's a lot I haven't covered here, especially bisexuality which deserves a lot more space than I was able to give it. In the meantime, here is what some paediatric endocrinologists had to say in a report from 2006:

"The foetal brain develops during the intrauterine period in the male direction through a direct action of testosterone on the developing nerve cells, or in the female direction through the absence of this hormone surge. In this way, our gender identity (the conviction of belonging to the male or female gender) and sexual orientation are programmed or organized into our brain structures when we are still in the womb. There is no indication that social environment after birth has an effect on gender identity or sexual orientation."

Boom. Science. It works, bitches. \*



#### DUNCAN HOPE

Gay New Zealanders come in all shapes, sizes, ages and shades of fabulousness.

**SOME ARE 'STRAIGHT ACTING'** with beer in hand and rugby on the telly; others are camper than Elton John in sequins at a glitter party, and some, like me, are a combination of both. But remember one thing: wherever you are on the homo scale—we love you. But what happens when we throw a bit of nationalism in there for goodmeasure? Well, let's meet the interviewees and find out what it means to be a gay New Zealander.

#### GRANT ROBERTSON

First up: MP Grant Robertson stepped in to fill the shoes of then retiring Labour stalwart, Marian Hobbs, in 2008 when he campaigned to electoral victory in Wellington Central. Robertson met his partner Alf whilst playing for the first ever gay rugby team in Wellington—the Krazy Knights. To quote his maiden speech in Parliament, "I was the number eight and he (Alf) was the halfback". Cute.

Running as an openly gay candidate, the MP has never struggled with his sexuality being in the media, admitting that "as a public person, I've always been out". With their 'Rainbow Policy' section of their manifesto, Labour is committed to providing extensive support to non-heterosexual New Zealanders. With policies that range from providing further access to sexual health resources including education and support for AIDS victims, to marriage equality, gay adoption rights and promoting safe school environments for queer students, Labour has got you homos covered!

When it comes to being a gay New Zealander, Robertson states that he is "a New Zealander, who happens to be gay". Although proud to be gay, his sexuality does not define him—no one thing does. To once again quote his maiden speech, it is part of him "just as is being a former diplomat, a fan of the mighty Ranfurly Shield holding Wellington Lions or New Zealand music and literature". And I think that's pretty choice.

#### DEAN KNIGHT

Fellow former Krazy Knight and law lecturer at Vic Dean Knight was more than happy to be interviewed. Just one catch—he's in London. Thank Zeus for Skype! The first thing Dean reveals to me is that "the coffee's shit here". A lecturer that swears. Fabulous. Well, fagulous. Dean's area of interest is public law, but he "dabbles" in queer issues when he has the time to do so. Dean tells me that "by and large New Zealand has done a very good job at cleaning up the statute books" where



inequality/inconsistencies previously discriminated against queer New Zealanders. But, like most things, there is still work to be done.

"Marriage is not available to same sex couples, however, all of the benefits are available through civil unions. We are lacking in adoption rights and there are also transgender issues. Transgendered people are not protected under the Bill of Rights or Human Rights Acts." What?!

"(We) can't just look at the legislation—it's what it recognises. There has to be work done to make these protections meaningful."

On marriage, Knight says "it still offends me that there is something that is excluded to me and my partner due to our sexuality". This has got to change. For Knight, "being gay is the most important and unimportant thing" about who he is.

"It opens up a rich world of community, a community which is fascinating and diverse. But on the other hand, it's also an unimportant part of me in the sense that I am a multi-dimensional person. And that ambiguity is what it means for me to be gay. I feel incredibly proud to be gay—all you straights should be jealous!"

## FELICITY FROCKACINO

Our third contestant for this evening, Miss Felicity Frockacino, was supposed to meet me at EspressoHolic at 4pm. She didn't show. 4:05pm in walks her brother/manager Shay who informs me that Fliss is "having a massage" and that he will conduct the interview on her behalf. What a diva!

When I tell Shay that Fliss is viewed by some to be a Gay Wellington icon he blushes and says that, "Fliss would love that. I believe that's good for her self esteem and it'll stop her going to rehab for a week. I mean she's almost as big as Lady Gaga—no, she's bigger." Delusions of grandeur? As her manager/financier/general assistant the poor boy tells me it takes "90 minutes to put her make up on. You should see her beforehand!" Shay also makes all of Felicity's outfits. Always a bridesmaid and never the bride.

He also hits back at malicious rumours that he and his sister are the same person: "Those people should be worshipped and then locked away forever!" I don't even know what that means. As a gay man, Shay thinks it is "amazing that we can be as free and open as we can be in New Zealand. In a lot of countries, you can't be. I really like being gay in New Zealand because we can be creative, outrageous, and challenge people's opinions. In 25 years we've come a long way. I am proud to be a New Zealander who's gay." Just after this Fliss walks in and demands Shay leaves at once; leaving me to pay the bill! Bitch.



**“** When I tell Shay that Fliss is viewed by some to be a Gay Wellington icon he blushes and says that, "Fliss would love that"

**“** Transgendered people are not protected under the Bill of Rights or Human Rights Acts

## TOM REED



Last but certainly not least is VUWSA Queer Officer, Tom Reed. Tom decided to run for office last year because he believed "I had knowledge that I could use in my role, particularly in my experience of going to a university that rates number one in the states for their support of queer students."

Since Tom was elected he has introduced the 'Safe Space Programme' to VUW which is a two-hour workshop in which staff and students can be educated on issues that affect the

Queer community. Through its use of 'Safe Space Stickers', the programme also "aims to create a visual network of Queer friendly people on campus." Reed believes that the role of Queer Officer is essential at the University because "all Queer people still have to face the potentially traumatic experience of coming out, they are still treated unequally under the law and societal prejudice and discrimination are still widely accepted by many sectors of the wider national community."

As he is the Queer Officer at Vic, he believes that many people see him being gay as an integral part of his identity, even though in reality it is "one of the many aspects." Instead, Tom views himself as "a human being first and foremost; and being gay and a New Zealander are just two of the aspects of my identity". Thanks Tom, for being such a wonderful Queer Officer!

Okey dokey. So, what have we learned children? That Homos are just as diverse as any other colourful social group. Well, duh. However, despite the diversity among the contestants, they shared one important thing in common—they were all extremely proud to be gay and New Zealanders. And I think that's what it's all about. Regardless of our own race, religion, ideology, colour, sexuality or any other defining factor; we are all New Zealanders. Alright, that's me done. I'm off to Ivy for a Cosmo—ciao! \*



# Guy Sex

CRUZ JOHNSON

Does man-on-man sex arouse your interest? Do you want to learn more about it? If you answered "yes" to both questions, sit back, grab a condom, and enjoy the ride.

**FIRST, I'LL SAY** little about masturbation; I'm sure you have sufficient experience in this area. Like all forms of sex, though, it should be fun. Learn what he likes and give him a helping hand, but by all means explore. You might open up a whole new world for him.

Next, oral sex. Some give, some receive, and plenty do both. Oral sex is essentially masturbation with your mouth replacing your hand (or working alongside it). Make sure to keep your teeth out of the way and begin by gently playing with the head of his penis, using your lips or tongue. Some men are more sensitive than others, so it's important to start slowly. See how he responds and mix it up a little: softly tug or suck/lick his balls; perhaps take him deeper into your mouth. Don't worry about swallowing his entire dick the first time out; it's not an automatic skill. You can learn to relax your throat if you want to, but, honestly, most guys will be so thrilled at getting their cock sucked they won't care!

The final step on this brief journey is anal sex. No matter how experienced you are, you need to prepare for the invasion. Gently rub a well-lubricated finger around the outside of your love tunnel. Once you feel sufficiently relaxed, slowly insert your finger as far as is comfortable for you. Softly move it around to find and stimulate your prostate. You'll know you've found it when a wave of pleasure wracks your body. If you like, you can add more fingers or anal toys (make sure they have a flared base so they don't get trapped inside you). Use as much lube as necessary. If you're planning on putting a real live penis up there, further exploration is essential. Remember to

take it slow; always go at your own pace. Contrary to popular belief, anal sex should not hurt, nor are all guys into it. If it's just not your cup of tea, don't stress.

Once you're ready to take your partner's cock, he should put on a fresh condom (just one: 'double-bagging' actually increases the likelihood of breakage), and make sure both it and your butt are sufficiently lubed. Always use water-based lube, which won't weaken the condom. Your lover should proceed slowly and with care. Tell him how it feels; ask him to stop or be more gentle if necessary. Eventually, the two of you will settle into a perfect rhythm.

This is only an introduction to the rich, diverse, world of guy-on-guy sex. Talk to your partner(s), read books, and surf the Web to learn more about pleasing your man.

Now for the disclaimers: if you are sexually active, it's important to have a full sexual health check-up at least once a year, more often if you have multiple or casual partners. "But I'd know if I had an STI, right?" Not true. Many of them show no symptoms at all.

Always use condoms for anal sex, and preferably for oral sex as well. "But I can only catch something by being the bottom, right?" Wrong. Guys can even catch STIs by being sucked off. Try explaining that to your mother!

For more information about anything I've covered, contact Student Health or the New Zealand AIDS Foundation (0800 80 AIDS). They'll be glad to help. \*

# 01 Girl Sex

In my short and recent career as a comfortable dyke-inclined human being, I am yet to encounter any real social aversion to my girly tendencies.

**MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE** lady-loving is the pop culture flavour of the month, maybe it's because the 'two chicks' thing tends to drain the blood from the prejudice-capable areas of the male anatomy. For whatever reason, I haven't had any really scarringly bad experience, and I know I'm lucky. I haven't even been subject to that elusive, indie 'wer-kewl-coz-we-knw-lesbos' social exploitation (which, for the record, I am totally up for. Call me.) As a place for the lady-gays, we're doing alright for ourselves. So high-five, Wellington.

In lieu of negativity, however, the outing of my sexuality hasn't been exactly met with positivity either. In fact, I couldn't count on two hands the amount of times the subjects of my honesty are just plain old confused. Not ignorant. Not misunderstanding. Confused. Everyone knows what a lesbian is. They know what it culturally, socially and sexually entails. But 90 per cent of the time, y'all just don't get it. Sex without a penis? God forbid. I blame the hetero-normative high school sex ed system—which for me is completely ironic—our sex ed was run by the PE department; I don't think there was a straight between them.

This is how it usually happens. They've had a few pints. They're straight as a pin. They saunter over and with varying levels of drunken or embarrassed vocabulary, say "I'm sorry, but I don't get it. Like... how do you guys, like ... do it?? And they're usually told a combination of fuck off, google it, or come round later and find out. So I figure I've spent long enough avoiding the dreaded question. Here it is: a short and sweet guide to gay and girly sex.

There are three main sex acts us lady-lovers typically engage in—the first and foremost

EVIE M. ANDERSON

of which are digital (or finger fucking) and oral. These two are by far the most popular and come in some lovely positional variations. Just like anything, however, there is a bit of knack to 'em, but with enthusiasm, short nails, and a half-arsed idea of where the clitoris is—hint: at the top, doofus—I'm sure you'll do just fine.

However, as primary lesbian sex positions, these acts do tend get a bit of flak as apparently 'mutual masturbation' isn't sex as much as it is foreplay. And to this I say, "boo". I will put good money on the fact most lesbianical sexy times are more mutual and more titillating (heh) than many a full-blown pedestrian hetero-pounding, thank you very much.

But, on that note, there are a handful of positions in which two girls can simultaneously get off with a motion akin to that of heterosexual sex. These come under the illustrious umbrella of Tribadism—a fancy term for bump-and-grind. The most well known position of which is "scissoring" (both leaning back, legs interlinked); then there's "the student" (dyke missionary), "tribbing" (someone on top), "the pearl" (both sitting up, legs hugging) and spooning. And that's just the tip of the iceberg. Tribadism is, however, less popular than one might think. While saying that it works 'just fine' would be all kinds of understatement, many ladies, myself included, find that other means of sexy-times are often a little more rollicking, if you know what I mean.

Finally, just to clarify a nasty myth that swam my way, toys and man-junk lookalike accessories, while absolutely optional (just as they are in any other kind of relationship), are anything but essential to girl-on-girl relations: damn you cock-centrist hetero culture. This is not to imply, however, that these options are not perfectly valid and wonderful fun, but I am certainly not alone in the opinion that penile-esque penetration shouldn't be held up as the ultimate pinnacle of all sexual experience and that the versatility and well, dexterity, of lacking these are all but detrimental.

So! Yeah. Girl sex is awesome. You should try it. And now you know how. Yay! ■



young,  
middle-class,  
white student

RANTS  
I V U ab  
SIN



Photo by Rachel Brandon

**DOROTHY V DENTATA**  
([sexshitandrocknroll.wordpress.com](http://sexshitandrocknroll.wordpress.com))

Hi. I'm a queer, white, sex-radical feminist, able-bodied, fat, whore. I am 15 months away from getting my second degree.

**I IDENTIFY WITH** the gender I was assigned (that is, I am cisgender), I come from a middle class background in a poor rural town. I have experienced mental illness. I am childless, single, an atheist from a Christian family, a survivor of sexual violence, and I could probably defend myself in many situations of physical risk.

I'm not just telling you this to let you know how exciting and interesting I am. I'm telling you this because all of those factors have influenced my chances in life, the way people treat me, the potential I perceive my life has. Packed into those statements about my background is a whole heap of privilege, and a few things that have caused me some extraordinary hardship.

The concept of 'privilege' is certainly gaining currency, especially in the internet activism I'm involved in. To put it simply, privilege is an unearned advantage gained due to being in a dominant social structure. Because privilege is unearned and often life-long, it can be really hard to identify.

Some examples of common types of privilege are: class, race, educational, able-bodied, cisgender, age, body-size, 'passing' (as in, passing as straight, or passing as cisgender), sexuality and religious privilege.

The thing about identifying privilege is that it can be a confrontational and difficult process. Quite often people will call others out on their privilege aggressively. It often seems like a slur against our individualistic ideas of self-worth to suggest that perhaps the reason (for example) we can find housing easily, gain employment, do well in university, or earn \$300 an hour to wrestle is because of reasons completely outside of our hard work and individual skills. It doesn't sit well with how we are usually conditioned to see achievements as earned.

“ It seems to me that obliviousness about white advantage, like obliviousness about male advantage, is kept strongly inculcated (in the United States) so as to maintain the myth of meritocracy, the myth that democratic choice is equally available to all. Keeping most people unaware that freedom of confident action is there for just a small number of people props up those in power and serves to keep power in the hands of the same groups that have most of it already”

-Peggy McIntosh,  
*"White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack"*

The problem is that once I started examining my privilege, I realised that every single person can exercise privilege in some ways whilst still experiencing oppression in others. For example, my position as a cisgender female has meant that I have experienced the oppressive power of sexism in my life, but that I have received opportunities and benefits that transphobia prevents many of my loved ones from accessing.

It's pretty clear to me that all of us can benefit from fighting systems of oppression, no matter what great cards life might have dealt us. It's also pretty clear to me that discrimination impacts us all negatively. The term 'patriarchy' is used to describe systems of male power. However, aren't men also disadvantaged by the narrow constructions of masculinity placed upon them? I'm firmly of the

# out privilege

opinion that 'patriarchy' and the more traditional 'men oppress women', 'straights oppress queers' thinking is outdated, binary, and ultimately a little bit lacking. I think it's time for another word; 'kyriarchy'

*Very briefly defined:*

“ Kyriarchy are the structures of domination working together as a network- not just one group dominating another. Its branches include but are not limited to racism, sexism, cissexism, heterosexism, ageism, and ableism. In a kyriarchy, our kyriarchy, this kyriarchy, different forms of supremacy on different axes are independent and interdependent”

-Rachel McCarthy James, [deeplyproblematic.com](http://deeplyproblematic.com)

It's probably a good time to explain how this is directly relevant to queer communities. Our activists have inspired and educated many of us in many different ways. We have a proud and beautiful legacy of queer individuals who have fought tirelessly for social justice and equality. However, we also run the risk of being a bit oppressive at times.

Dan Savage is an example of a public queer figure who, in many ways, has achieved great things. His insightful and open advice and his position as an out and proud gay man who's interested and knowledgeable about sexuality, these are positive things. Less positive, however, are the things he has said about bisexuals.

“ Sorry, but avoiding bi guys is a good rule of thumb for gay men looking for long-term relationships.”

“No, there are definitely some people who should fool around with bisexual men: OTHER BISEXUAL MEN! Jesus Christ, bisexuals – if straights and gays treat you unfairly, then why not turn to each other for love and comfort?”

Judging from my mail of late, there's an unlimited supply of easily offended, extremely verbose, highly ethical bisexuals out there looking for love. F\*\*k each other!”

**Questioner:** I'm a lesbian, and my girlfriend is bisexual and wants to have a three-way with a man. This makes me nervous. What should I do?

**DAN:** Get yourself a refillable Xanax prescription, or get yourself an actual lesbian girlfriend.

“ Don't suggest we stick to our own kind, tell people to avoid us, or state that an 'actual lesbian girlfriend' is better than a bisexual girlfriend

Oh hey Dan Savage, do you not realise that in your helpful work with the gay and lesbian communities (who have experienced so much discrimination based on their sexual orientation) you appear to be now just replacing homophobia with biphobia? Don't suggest we stick to our own kind, tell people to avoid us, or state that an 'actual lesbian

girlfriend' is better than a bisexual girlfriend. This isn't helping the questioner, her relationship, or the queer community as a whole!

Sadly, Dan Savage is not the only example. We also have the lesbian-run Michigan Womyn's Music Fest, an annual event focusing on feminism, activism, and womyn-made music. Sounds great, right? Until you hear about their womyn-born-womyn policy. Regardless of individual views on the legitimacy of gendered spaces, it sure strikes me as pretty unfair that transfolk are not allowed at somewhere that could be a safe, nurturing, empowering, and invigorating environment. This trans discrimination is challenged annually, and yet has been upheld since 1991.

In local examples, we have our very own collection of Wellington queers who take part in slut-shaming, body-policing, ageism, mental-health based discrimination, and sadly the list goes on. One look at *Aaron and Andy*, a local gay blog notorious for vicious commenting and fierce arguments, will show that privilege and kyriarchy are real and relevant issues for us.

What can we do about it? I'm no expert, merely at the start of beginning to deal with my privilege and examine my attitudes and assumptions. The fundamental part of me even being able to identify the ways kyriarchy has benefited me has been learning to listen when people call us out on privilege. It can be hard to feel like somebody has no interest in hearing your opinion, but frankly I see my place in fighting, for example, racism as being an ally. As a white lady, if someone of colour disagrees with my viewpoint on an issue, I am going to listen. I am going to acknowledge in my own mind how racism is a hurtful and oppressive and awful thing. I am going to acknowledge that the fight against racism is best led by people of colour, and I am going to pledge to learn about and support that fight. It's very hard to support these struggles if I am constantly on the defensive, it's hard to learn if I am feeling the need to loudly express my privileged viewpoint.

Learning, co-operating, and respecting that the only way to overthrow oppression is to support and assist where wanted in struggles led by the oppressed, that's how our communities will make positive change. The next time somebody calls you out on your privilege, take a deep breath, reflect on how your experiences have been, and realise that you may be playing a part in the kyriarchy. Don't feel guilty about it, change it! \*





According to Hollywood, the gay makes you bat-shit crazy

## Hasbians, Matt Damon, and a Butch Octopus: GAYS AND THE MEDIA

JOSH WRIGHT (*Communications Officer and General Stud*) &  
GENEVIEVE FOWLER (*UniQ Co-Prez and Good Bitch*)

The media is a strange beast. It's art and politics. It's a reflection and a catalyst. It's entertainment. It's invasive and pervasive. It's for the people, of the people and against the people. So, where on Earth do the gays fit in this crazy mess?

**REMINISCE WITH ME.** Remember when, once upon a time, the only queers on the screen were villains? Take Disney, for example: there's power-hungry Jafar, swooning about in *Aladdin* with those fabulous sleeves; Ursula, the big, butch, crew-cut, tentacly octopus, sabotaging Ariel's chances of heterosexual happiness; and of course, Cruella de Vil, the harsh, sneering, lipstick-laden puppy assassin, dressed up in monotone and badassery. (Fun fact: there is a fetish magazine inspired by her. Sweet.) Anyways, the media's had us believing that alternative sexuality has meant bad things for the straight, wholesome young heroes and heroines since we were crawling. Hadn't thought about it that way before? Shifty, huh?

The blockbusters of our youth weren't much better. In fact, there was a time when just about every Hollywood villain had a dash of effeminate flamboyancy thrown in for good measure. After all, what are alternative representations of masculinity good for if not scaring the bejeezus out of us? *Silence of the Lambs* had us thinking that every transgender person was a butchering homo-cidal maniac (tehe) and the *Diamonds are Forever* hitmen succeeded in intricately interweaving immorality with their love of cock. Matt Damon's man-crush in

*The Talented Mr. Ripley* even had him bludgeoning Jude Law to a pulp with an oar, of all things. According to Hollywood, the gay makes you bat-shit crazy.

That, or hilarious, darling! Cue the 'sissy'—television's stock comedian. From reality TV to every RomCom heroine's best buddy, if the homo on set wasn't an evil-doer, he was the comic relief and the sidekick.

Similarly, female homosexuality has become something of a cultural gimmick recently too. Oh, you kissed a girl? Just like t.A.T.u., Rihanna, and every rap-ho ever? Faux-lesbians and hasbians are a dime a dozen in the entertainment business these days and, as important as lesbian visibility in mainstream media is, when that visibility is femme-y fallacy, a spectacle for a male and hetero target audience, it can hardly be called 'progress' in our opinion.

But things have changed a bit since then. We couldn't count the amount of awesome, successful protagonists in a variety of television and movie genres for whom homosexuality is either a sincerely treated issue or, even better in our opinion, a sidelined personality trait as insignificant as hair colour or height.

Indeed, if you go looking for it, it won't be long until you stumble across something fabulous. Our calling? The glorious interwebs. If it weren't for YouTube, we probably wouldn't be aware that Kathy Griffin existed, or that National Coming Out Day is October 10, or even that "it gets better". Never mind the easy access it grants to all the Madonna and Kylie that any self-respecting walking stereotype could ask for. Without these awesome cornerstones of the media landscape, without dandy websites like tumblr, and other such online communities, we'd have to forget cooing at [fuckyeahgaycouples.tumblr.com](#), or gasping in disbelief at [stuffinmyvagina.tumblr.com](#). Actually, that could be a good thing. A word to the wise: don't let curiosity kill the cat.

Stuff in vaginas aside, there's loads of important resources out there in the mediascape. It's the telling of stories, sharing of ideas and the development of identities. It's visibility and affinity. We might not be there yet, but the media, in its eternally-sprawling glory, often facilitates this wonderful process of self-discovery and growth, letting people in minorities know that they are not alone.

In fact, it's been awesome for all the minorities, really. Just ask those people who are addicted to eating ice, or get off on sneezes. Yeah, I'm not even joking. They exist, google it. \*





# REASONS TO BE PROUD

**ANTONY REID & MEGHAN HARRIS**

"Who would give a law to lovers? Love is unto itself a higher law." So said the philosopher Boethius in 524AD. The words of Boethius formed the thought that ran through the heads of the people that took Stonewall Inn.

**IT WAS THE** force behind 1979's Reclaim the Night march, the passing of the 1986 homosexual law reform by 49 votes to 44 and the reason for every fight of the LGBT community since. All the actions that have followed, and the people that have come since are our reason to be proud.

Throughout history gay people have been fighters. From Harvey Milk: the first gay man elected to public office in California, to the Topp Twins: lesbian New Zealand sisters who yodelled their way to visibility, gay people have been positively representing us for generations. They have been top icons along with celebrities such as Elton John, Ricky Martin, Tegan and Sara, Ellen DeGeneres and Sir Ian McKellen. The visibility and the success of these gay people

is a feat to be proud of as it has encouraged all gay people to get out of the closet and be proud of whom they are.

Because of this visibility, and the work of politicians who are gay and gay-friendly, we can now get married in Belgium, Spain, the Netherlands, Canada, Argentina, Portugal, and Sweden (to name a few).

Though all of this is significant, living life in the LGBT community was definitely difficult during the past. The mere act of talking to someone under the age 20 about your sexuality was forbidden, as was the production of gay-themed media. As a community, homophobia is something that is still present in today's culture, but it does get better. Today the gay community is supported by close friends, politicians, celebrities and people in general who are open to the idea of love. The culture of our special events, such as pride week, Miss Tiffany pageants, and gay film festivals like Wellington's own Outtakes have certainly created a huge impact in our modern day lives and what it means to be gay in New Zealand.

Acceptance of the gay community is gradually becoming more prominent than the intolerance of the past and the movement to cement this even further is still rolling.

There are so many reasons for gay people to be proud: those who have fought for us, the people who represent us, the history that has shaped our lives and the culture that surrounds us. We are who we are and we love who we love. That is something to be proud of. \*

**BEN WYLIE-VAN EERD**

# Rare Earth bonanza?

Recently in the papers, it was reported that mud and sediment in certain parts of the Pacific, including parts around New Zealand, were surprisingly rich in materials called 'rare earth minerals.'

**OKAY, FIRST OF** all, what is a rare earth mineral? As the name suggests, these materials are chemical elements which are relatively rare on the Earth. More specifically, it refers to elements numbers 21, 39, and 57 through 71. What is interesting about these materials is that they have different electronic and magnetic properties to most other elements, which gives them applications in all sorts of electronics, ceramics, and other high tech devices. In my own research for example, I am looking at rare earth elements to find coupled electric, magnetic and physical vibrations.

There is definitely a market for these things, which seems likely only to expand in the future. So news that we may have some rich deposits of rare-earths to draw on is good news. However, all of this latest find is in seabed mud, which is underwater. And we all know how safe undersea mining is, don't we? Deepwater Horizon revealed some of the poor practices in place even in large-scale operations, and there has been strong opposition from the public and from local and iwi groups to a Petrobras proposal to start undersea oil extraction in New Zealand.

I had a bit of a search, and found some documents detailing the presence of rare earth minerals on land in New Zealand, to see what deposits existed above water. It turns out that there are a few sites in

mainland New Zealand which contain relatively high yields of rare earths—between two and four times more abundant than the average yield for the right type of rock. Unfortunately, like much of New Zealand's mineral wealth, most of it is under our Native forest and conservation estate. Most of the promising sites are on the West coast of the South Island, although there are some deposits in the Canterbury plains, and the lower East coast. One other alternative is the rare earths found in beach sands. One advantage of the beach sand deposits is that they also contain ilmenite and gold. So if any one of these mining operations was to begin, then the other two could use the by-product of the first for a lower overall cost.

Overall it seems like while New Zealand does have some promising rare-earth deposits, wherever we go for them, there are some problems to be overcome in order to extract them. It may become worthwhile to do so anyway, but only if we intend to produce manufactured goods such as electronics, ceramics<sup>[1]</sup> and turbines out of them. Simply digging them up and selling them off to someone else seems like a raw deal for us. \*



[1] I know that in the advanced ceramics area at least, New Zealand does have an active research community. So maybe this is not a far-fetched idea.

**Further reading:**

News report about the mud finding: [stuff.co.nz/science/5238554/Metal-riches-found-in-seabed-mud-of-Pacific](http://stuff.co.nz/science/5238554/Metal-riches-found-in-seabed-mud-of-Pacific)

Report on rare earth minerals in New Zealand: [nzpam.govt.nz/cms/pdf-library/minerals/minerals-overview-pdfs-1/report17\\_rareearths.pdf](http://nzpam.govt.nz/cms/pdf-library/minerals/minerals-overview-pdfs-1/report17_rareearths.pdf)

**7 THE  
Inning  
STRETCH**



**JOIN THE REVOLUTION.  
ENTER THE VICTORIA FILM COMPETITION**



**ONE MINUTE  
MOVIE MASSIVE**

**Tell a story in 1 minute  
to win a GO-PRO video camera !**

**Go to:**  
[www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms)  
**for competition entry forms and rules.**

**Open to all Victoria Students.**  
 Shoot on your cell phone or  
 your handycam. Prize goes to best  
 story told in 1 minute.

**Proudly Supported  
by PROTEL NZ**

**REVOLUTIONARY FILM MAKING**



**Submit films by  
9 September 2011**



# Tiger Who?

JONO MCLEOD

What's the best way to get back at an ex-employer after they fire you? Well Steve Williams knows.

**YOU GO OUT**, find a new employer and you help them beat the old one. Then you give a verbal middle-finger to them at the very first opportunity.

Just three weeks ago, New Zealand caddy Steve Williams was let go by Tiger Woods after being his caddy for thirteen years. The pair managed to amass over 70 professional wins in this time, including 13 of Tiger's 14 Majors victories. With Williams, his trusted caddy and friend on his bag, Tiger rose to be the world's best golfer and one of the greatest of all time.

But Tiger, who has had to learn the art of moving on recently, thought it best that he part ways with Steve as he tries to rebuild his career in the wake of his sex scandal and numerous injuries that have plagued him for the past two years.

So Steve decided to shack up with Australian Adam Scott, who he had caddied for in both the US Open and The Open Championship while Woods was injured, on a permanent basis. A decision which, though he was forced into making it, has already paid dividends.

At the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational at Firestone last weekend, Adam Scott blew the field away on Sunday with a bogey-less final round of 65 to clinch the prestigious tournament along with a US\$1M+ paycheck. Williams' knowledge of the course was undoubtedly a factor seeing as he had helped Woods win at Firestone on seven previous occasions. Woods however, could not match his previous heights after returning from three months out injured as he finished the tournament one over and 18 shots behind Scott.

The elated Kiwi was a crowd favourite over all four of the tournament days and topped off his and Scott's victory with a typically blunt 'fuck you' to Tiger Woods in a post victory interview when he told the world "it's the best win of my life" and that this was the greatest week of his life.

Leading Scott to victory last weekend was the sweetest form of revenge for Williams who was extremely surprised and aggrieved at Tiger Woods' decision three weeks ago. However, as Tiger struggles to re-find the form that took him to the very top heights of the golfing world, it seems as if our New Zealand caddy has fallen on his feet and is going from strength to strength as he begins his new career with the rejuvenated and ever-improving Aussie.

With the FedEx Cup just around the corner, could Williams and Scott be coming into form at just the right time to claim the US\$10M prize at the end of September at the Tour Championship? Only time will tell, but if this was the middle-finger to Woods, winning the FedEx Cup would be dousing it in chilli and ramming it in Tiger's eye. \*


**CONSTANCE CRAVINGS**

*Hi Constance,*

*My boyfriend really wants me to deep throat him, and so do I, but when I try my gag reflex kicks in and I find myself unable to do it.*

*The other night I managed to get him past my gag reflex but then I felt like I couldn't breathe and panicked. Do you have any tips or suggestions that could help me get all the way down?*

*Thanks heaps,*

*From,  
Still only half way down...*

**HEY LOVELY, YOU** are not the first person to send me this question so I will answer for all those who have asked deep throat or 'how do I give a good blowjob' questions.

Firstly, your gag reflex is there for a reason. It is your friend. Real talk—I don't have a gag reflex and although it's a nifty party trick, it also means if I ever have too much to drink and want to have a wee vom I absolutely cannot. Don't envy those without gag reflexes because what it has in porn star quality it lacks in practicality. The reason why you freak when something passes your gag reflex is because you're not supposed to have solids that far down your throat. It's a warning sign.

If you want to give the illusion of his cock going deep into your mouth, relax your throat and the back of your mouth and (this is key) find a good angle. One that allows them full access smoothly in and out of your mouth and to the beginning of your throat and take it slowly. Start shallow and build up to pushing it further if you feel comfortable. If you don't feel comfortable, then a brother is going to have to live with it. Wrapping your lips around his cock should feel nice enough and most people are not never-ending cock-sOCKETS. If your eyes are watering, you're probably not having fun.

As for all the questions on how to give good head, it is different for everyone. Try different things—speeds, depths, paying the head attention, paying the shaft attention, paying the balls attention, blah blah blah. Get him to let you know what is working for him and just go from there. This is going to sound awfully *Cosmo Sealed Section* but the 'pretend it's a lollipop' thing is actually pretty good advice in the sense that if you're really enjoying it and getting into it, it will be fun all round. When you are entering into a new relationship/encounter with someone, it probably pays to not expect them to enjoy what your last partner did. Just be enthusiastic and creative and see where it takes you.

As for specific tongue trick suggestions, I could teach you but I'd have to charge.

Also lovelies please remember that not everyone likes getting head, not everyone likes giving head, and the fact that blowjobs, more so than pussy-eating, are expected sexual acts, can be pretty pressuring for people who aren't sure about it. Take it easy. Have fun with it. Be open about what you enjoy and don't feel bad about what you don't enjoy. \*

**Got a sex question?**  
Want to ask  
anonymously and  
see it in *Salient*? Go to  
[askconstance.com](http://askconstance.com) for  
your hard-earned 15  
minutes of faceless,  
pantsless fame.

EAS  
B&  
TUEUES

**WITH AUNTIE SHARON**

*Dear Auntie,*

*There's this guy, he's in my lecture, and he is très cute. I want some excuse to talk to him, but I don't know what that is! How do I do this? Should I cut my losses and do nothing? I don't know! Help!*

*Love, très shy.*

**UNCLE DAZ RECKONS** that guys love it when girls approach them. Especially if they're hot. I've seen you around très shy, and I know you're hot. It's an instant ego-boost, and unless he's already got a girlfriend, he'll at least indulge your shy whimpers for as long as it's still making him feel manly. Hopefully that's long enough for you to start sounding like the cool and intelligent person you are in your head.

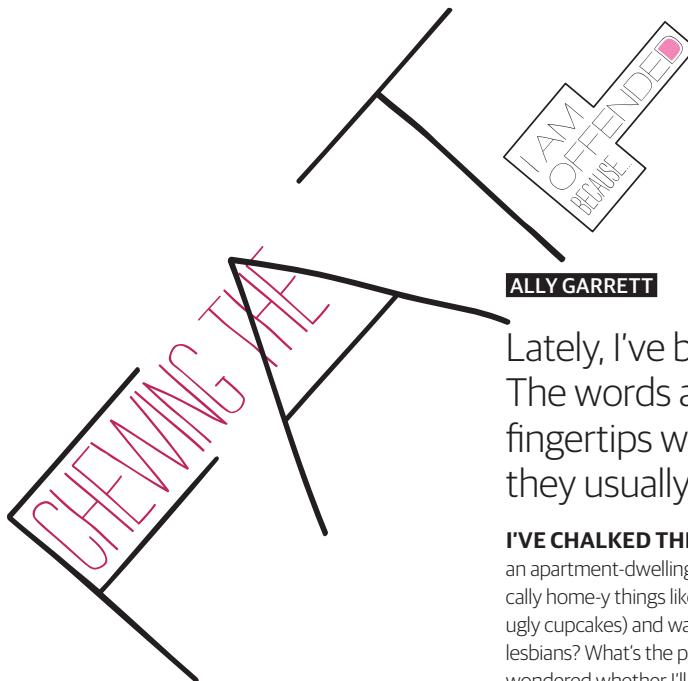
Proximity is key. You gotta start getting closer to him in lectures. The ideal would be if you could wrangle your way into the same tutorial as him. But if that's not possible, try arriving a little late to lectures, scope out his position, and edge in. Alternatively, keep an eye out for him in cafe queues.

Your opening line doesn't need to be witty or memorable, just audible. It might be something as trivial as asking to borrow a pen or piece of paper. Share his textbook. If you're lucky enough to land a spot behind him in a queue, just say 'Hey, you're in my class, eh? What do you think of the paper?' You might want to get a little more adventurous and ask him what he thinks of something (e.g. 'don't you think it's weird that we have to take stats for psychology?' or 'what did you think of that TS Eliot poem from class today?') Just act normal.

You just need to start with something, anything—just start talking. From there you can move from the trivial stuff to daily greetings, and eventually warm up to establishing his romantic status and if he might fancy a drink with you.

It's worth thinking about whether or not you actually want to find out if his brain matches his cuteness though—it can be a gamble. Cute boys can be great motivation for getting to lectures, some getting certain girls through whole sociology degrees. Are you sure you want him to go from motivation to distraction? Or worse, from motivation to bore?

Good luck très shy, hope he's worth the anxiety!  
Love Shaz. \*



Lately, I've been in a writing rut. The words aren't flowing from my fingertips with the same vitriol that they usually do.

**I'VE CHALKED THE** rut up to winter and the way I'm hibernating like an apartment-dwelling bear. I've been doing all sorts of uncharacteristically home-y things like baking muffins (usually I hate muffins, they're just ugly cupcakes) and watching *Downton Abbey* (a period drama with no lesbians? What's the point?). On evenings of particular melodrama, I've wondered whether I'll ever batter my keyboard with writing rage ever again. I needn't have worried, because I just saw an article that a friend posted on Facebook, and hoo boy, I'm a-typing.

The article, a well-meaning list of '10 Ways to Stop Fat Talk', encourages readers to cultivate a more positive body image and stop talking about their bodies in negative ways. On the surface, that's something that I can get behind. Pledging to be kinder to yourself is one of the most powerful things you can do. My problem with the article is that it equates toxic, negative body thoughts with 'Fat Talk'. It's not that simple. Especially for me, because you know what? I actually *am* fat.

I'm fat, and there's no disputing it. My BMI says I'm fat. My clothes say I'm fat. My mouth says I'm fat and it's a fact, not an insult. Fat is just a word. A word to describe bodies, just the way you would describe someone as being tall or having brown hair. Yet, there's no '10 Ways to Stop Brown Hair Talk' article. We live in a world that equates fat with bad. Often, this is because our culture assumes a fat body is an unhealthy body—which is ridiculous because you just can't tell how healthy a person is just by looking at them. Being fat is not the same as eating rubbish and never exercising. If your modus operandi is encouraging people to live healthier lifestyles, that's not the same as encouraging them to lose weight. Really, when you think about it, whether someone is healthy or not isn't any of your business, unless you're their doctor. And before you get all 'what about *public health costs*?' on my ass, I don't see anybody using 'extreme sports participant' or 'motorway cyclist' or 'aspartame enthusiast' as an insult. Every body is a good body. Health should never be a prerequisite for respect.

When I use the word fat to describe myself, I'm reclaiming it. I'm taking back the power from everyone who has used that word to hurt me. I'm freeing myself from years of using euphemisms like "curvy"—which are stupid when you consider that every body has curves, given that bodies are three dimensional. 'Fat Talk' doesn't have to be negative. Fat Talk can be as simple as 'my fat body and I are going to go on a bad ass walk'. In the words of Hermione Granger: "fear of a name only increases fear of the thing itself". I'm not afraid to be fat. I'm not afraid of my body. My body ain't Voldemort. \*



“Really, when you think about it, whether someone is healthy or not isn't any of your business, unless you're their doctor



# Sexual Assault: Who Can Provide HELP?

**LINDA BECKETT (PHD)**

**IN MY LAST** article on sexual assault, I discussed sexual assault as a significant event incurring a wide range of possible physical and psychosocial impacts. Although rape is usually defined as a crime and a legal issue, it is first and foremost a health issue and a totally preventable health issue if ethical codes of interaction are routinely observed. However until then, importantly, short term effects can be mitigated and, moreover, long-term effects can be obviated by the care which is given by specialist helping professionals in the immediate aftermath of sexual assault.

Because sexual assault creates a variety of needs, a variety of specialist agencies are available to provide medical/forensic, psychosocial and criminal justice advice and assistance. In Wellington, as elsewhere, any or all of the three main agencies which work together or separately may be accessed—depending on what is wanted by those who report.

I mentioned the government-funded Sexual Assault Assessment and Treatment Service (SAATS) in my last article. Tu Pakari Ora is our local SAATS Service, based at 275 Cuba St with an additional assessment site located in Lower Hutt. We are staffed by medical and nursing practitioners who, as specialists in the field of sexual assault responsiveness, do understand the many impacts of sexual assault.

Should you or a friend be assaulted, in the first instance SAATS is available for consultation about what you may need to do and what your options are. If you think you may, now or in the future, seek legal redress, SAATS can collect the forensic evidence for you and have it stored anonymously until you have enough information to make a decision about reporting to police. Equally important, we provide confidential medical care for all possible physical problems which may have been caused by the assault, including sexually transmitted infections, injuries or pregnancy. All of this care is provided in premises which are private, safe and secure and nothing that we do is at financial cost to you.

Your follow-up medical care is also our concern and this is can be offered in either of our Hutt or Wellington clinics, should you wish or we can refer you back to your GP. Our initial care and support may include helping you to access specialist support and/or police advice and services. Both are our partner agencies, but accessing either is your choice.

If you need to contact us, you can do so by phoning 805 0522 or 027 666 8865 between 8.30-4pm and talking confidentially to the SAATS coordinator or doctor. Outside those hours our answer machine will tell you how to access us. Alternatively you can visit us at our clinic in Cuba St. We welcome your enquiries and discussion about any sexual assault issue – no matter what. Most of all though, we hope you stay safe and don't need us. ✌



**DAVID BURR**

**SAY HELLO TO** the Oarfish, the world's longest bony fish.

Often referred to as "the king of herrings", these fish have been known to grow up to 17 metres long. Their preferred habitat is between 600 and 1000 metres below the sea surface, but they have been known to wash up on shore after violent storms or to surface when sick or dying. Because of this, it is believed that the oarfish may be responsible for many of the legendary sightings of sea serpents.

The Oarfish's long ribbon-like body is in fact scaleless and its dorsal fin is topped by up to 400 small spines. When feeding, these bizarre fish position their bodies vertically in the water column and swim straight up. There has even been an account from a New Zealand researcher which described the oarfish as giving off "electric shocks" when touched.

In ancient Japanese folklore, Oarfish were known as the "Messenger from the Sea God's Palace" and were believed to herald earthquakes. Eerily enough, between November 2009 and March 2010, 19 rare Oarfish washed up on the coast of Japan. I'm sure I don't need to remind anyone that the Tōhoku Earthquake (the most powerful earthquake to have ever hit Japan) hit almost exactly a year after this.

On a lighter note, I think the oarfish may be a contender for "coolest hairdo in the ocean". ✌

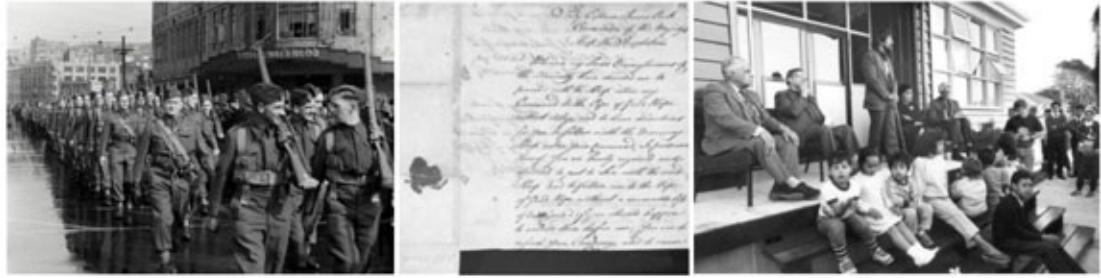




10 Mulgrave Street, Thorndon, Wellington,  
near the Railway Station and Bus Depot

Phone: (64-4) 499 5595  
[www.archives.govt.nz](http://www.archives.govt.nz)

**Archives New Zealand is a gateway to our nation's history and a multitude of primary resource opportunities**



# Archives New Zealand

## A-plus for Archives New Zealand's research resources

The chance to learn first-hand about Archives New Zealand's standard setting programme got an A-plus from Victoria University records management students on a recent visit to the Archives Wellington repository.

The visit was organised by Senior Lecturer, Archives & Records Management School of Information Management Dr Gillian Oliver following the School's relocation from the Kelburn campus to Rutherford House, near the Archives' building in Thorndon.

"My students are studying records and archival management and this was a good opportunity to take them to Archives New Zealand to learn about the government recordkeeping programme," Gillian Oliver said. "They certainly enjoyed the visit, and were very appreciative of the opportunity."

The group were also given a guided tour of the Archives' repository.

Wellington-based students often have their first Archives' experience through a guided tour. Organised through their course tutors, the tours introduce students to the holdings and provide details on how to use Archway and other finding aids to assist with their studies.

With many thousands of heritage documents on hand, the Archives' Wellington repository is a valuable research resource, for students of art history, film, architecture, Māori business development, Treaty of Waitangi studies, political science and post grad museum and heritage studies to name a few.

As a National Archive, Archives New Zealand is accountable for safeguarding public records and information.

Students and other researchers have access to the archives and records through the Wellington reading room, as well as via the online search engine Archway.

The Gateway, situated on the Wellington office ground floor provides a one-stop customer service space where the Archives' holdings can be explored at leisure. Here students begin the discovery of documents required for their academic studies before moving onto the reading room for dedicated research time.

Also in the Constitution Room of the Wellington office are the 1840 Treaty of Waitangi and other heritage documents. The Archives' extensive holdings of government records date back to the 1800s and include thousands of documents, maps, plans, artworks, photographs, film and sound recordings.

The Alexander Turnbull Library manuscripts and other documents from the National Library of New Zealand are also being held at Archives New Zealand while the library building is closed for redevelopment.

For further information about Archives New Zealand including tours and how to book online, go to the Archives New Zealand website: [archives.govt.nz](http://archives.govt.nz).



## Theatre

# Eight

LOUISE BURSTON

I'm almost ashamed to admit that I found the premise of *Eight* highly appealing.

**AUDIENCES CAN VOTE** for six of the eight possible characters that they would like to see during the play and this, according to playwright Ella Hickson, serves in "reminding us that in each choice we make we are choosing to leave something behind". I suppose I'm more susceptible to consumerism than I thought. The feeling of power was heady as I voted but my disappointment was equally acute on opening night when I realised that Jude and Danny, the characters I had most wanted to see, would not be making an appearance. This information was conveyed poignantly by the lights which illuminated the two characters' names blinking out. Lines from the play were both scrawled on the wooden panels towards the back of the stage and on the walls of Circa Two itself, a lovely touch which, what with Facebook and Twitter, is somewhat reminiscent of our being surrounded by the proclamations and personal thoughts of others.

The country's "hottest young actors", kitted out in a variety of NZ fashion designs, were superb. Thank God. The prospect of sitting through nearly an hour and a half of monologues delivered by anything less than exceptionally talented actors is chilling to say the least. Jonathan Kenyon gives a strong and steely performance as Miles, an American golden boy and businessman whose chance encounter in London propels him into an existence of excess without empathy. Jessica Robinson is delicious as both Bobby, a single mum trying to give her kids a "magic" Christmas, and "marital supplement" Millie. Robinson not only delivers dialogue with thrilling speed and poise but also displays an awareness of the characters' surroundings which swept me up in their stories very quickly. Chelsea Bognuda's Astrid, creeping home to her slumbering boyfriend after spending the night with another man, questions whether her infidelity lends her any power in a relationship in which she feels invisible. It is a compelling piece and I feel that, of all the monologues I saw, it relates most strongly to the play's interest in the inevitable feeling of loss which accompanies our choices in life. Mona, Bognuda's second character of the night, was a bit of a mystery to me. A highly stylistic piece, bookended by some creepy singing, it explores the relationship between darkness and light, secrets and privacy. Bognuda fully commits to the stilted text and saves the piece from sounding like a prose adaptation of My Chemical Romance's most clichéd lyrics. Andre, played by Paul Waggott, is a gallery owner whose boyfriend has recently left him in a decidedly Avant-garde fashion. Waggott's comic timing and glittering charm result in a magnetic performance. It did dawn on me, however, as Andre ruminated over the artificial glamour of the art world, that the script seems to take a turn towards dour pontificating in each and every monologue. Perhaps this is an attempt to reflect 'Generation Me's' demand to have it all, even on an emotional scale, but it often appears contrived and the effect is disingenuous. Perhaps both the characters and playwright of *Eight* might benefit from a 'less is more' attitude. \*

**Eight**  
By Ella Hickson  
06 August – 03 September at Circa Two



## Those Who Can't Do, Review.

Right? Wrong, according to ASPA-Winning Theatre Reviewer Uther Dean, whom Louise had a chat to about what reviewing theatre involves.

**Louise:** Why do you review theatre?

**Uther:** My personal story is that I read the theatre reviews in another student publication and they were terrible. Amateur, out of date and they were written from a point of ignorance; stupid people telling other stupid people that theatre was for haughty people... What people think of when they hear the word 'theatre' is that episode of *Friends* when they went to a show and it was a woman talking about her divorce for four hours. Theatre criticism needs to be talking to people who aren't going to the theatre and saying "you should actually come to the theatre".

**Louise:** What makes a good review?

**Uther:** A review needs to be three points: What is this trying to do? Does it achieve that thing? And is it worth doing? Feeling and tone are much more important than plot or character. It's much more important for you to be able to read a review and say "Oh, this sounds a bit like *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou*. I like *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou* so I want to see that..." There's a weird anti-intellectualism rising up in reviews of people moaning that you don't read themes into plays because they aren't there and that's why I think it's important for reviewers to also be makers. I think it should basically be the law, if I'm honest. You have to realise that if you're a director or a writer that everything ends up meaning something. \*



## Visual Arts

# Breaking the Mold

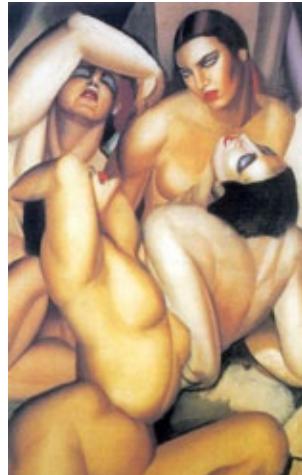
THOMAS COUGHLAN

It was the late 1920s and Paris was in uproar. It was no small thing to rally a city that in the last decade had seen Hemingway and Fitzgerald's drunken literary romps and Picasso and Braques' artistic iconoclasm.

**TAMARA DE LEMPCKA HOWEVER,** was something different. Her sexy and voluptuous modernist style wasn't used, like Picasso's was, to provoke and challenge, but to ferment and enhance her racy subject matter. Lempicka was bisexual, and unlike the famous Italian Renaissance painters she studied and admired at the Louvre, she wasn't interested in embedding secret phallic symbols in her work, but rather, to let her bombastic sexuality carry itself to every corner of the canvas. In the history of queer art there had never been anyone quite like Lempicka, quite so aggressive and uncompromising—the antithesis of those cheeky Renaissance men dropping painterly clues for the likes of Dan Brown to pick up and misconstrue.

Of course, that isn't to say that the depiction of queer subject matter in the Renaissance is uninteresting. The Renaissance was by no means a time of sexual tolerance, but homosexual relationships between *men* of certain classes were tolerated, though in a don't ask don't tell way (think Maverick and Iceman a la *Top Gun*). Michelangelo Buonarroti's work is an excellent gateway to understanding Renaissance societal and artistic approaches to homosexuality. Michelangelo had an eye for the homoerotic; arch your head skywards in Sistine Chapel and between the annoying camera flashes and screaming museum wardens you might just notice the rippling beauty of Adam reaching out at God's hand. Other famous examples of Michelangelo's appreciation of the idealized male form include the famous 'David' statue in the Uffizi and his numerous sketches and cartoons that play on witty phallic imagery. Michelangelo's delicate homoeroticism is a window into his world. He comes close to telling us everything, to showing us what we so crave to see, but he never quite says it. From what research material survives, we know that Michelangelo practiced a monk-like celibacy, which some have interpreted as a symptom of his own personal struggle with his sexuality and the confusing and often repressive religious society in which he kept company.

It is precisely this lack of polite deference that attracts us to the work of Tamara de Lempicka. Her bold bisexuality runs in every stroke of her impressive oeuvre. Born in partitioned Poland in 1898, she waited only 16 years to find and marry the 'most handsome bachelor in Warsaw', Tadeusz Lempicki. Fleeing the Russian Revolution, Tadeusz and Tamara found themselves in 1920s Paris; an ideal place for Tamara to hobnob with the Lost Generation, but not for Tadeusz to find a job. Tamara took to cocaine, motherhood and painting, first her friends and lovers, and later the recently deposed European royalty who had made Paris their home (obviously oblivious to what Parisians do to deposed royalty). Her subject matter is



Above: *Four Nudes* 1925  
Tamara de Lempicka



Right: *David* 1504  
Michelangelo

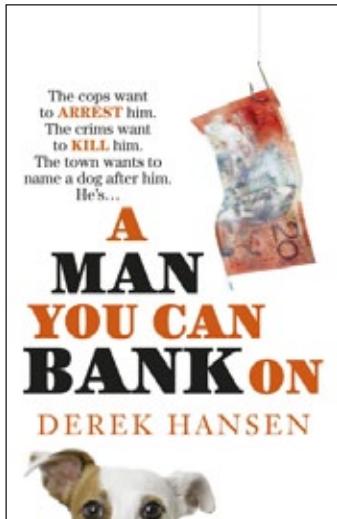
unashamedly sexualised. Sexuality isn't embedded in the subtext, it is the text. In paintings like *Four Nudes*, she gives her subjects the entire canvas, their wonderfully modernist, cylindrical limbs—beautifully graded, like Cezanne if he'd been given an airbrush and a picture of a Ferari—arch in ecstasy, their modernist geometry practically bulging and spilling out into our world. If Lempicka could barely contain her sexuality within the canvas, we can read that she had no shame in being who she was when it came to the world outside her painting. From her famous, *Four Nudes* to *Beautiful Rafaela*, a reclining nude to her developed and complex *Spring* 1928. This era is a crowning achievement for an artist and for queer art that had for too long been hidden and sanitized. ✪

## What's On

SALLY ANDERSON

- Opening this week at Thistle Hall is *The Briefcase Project*, a collaborative art exhibition presenting the work of seventeen local artists, curated by futurist/electronics artist, Rich Decibels. Each artist has created a piece within the limitations of a physical briefcase.
- Toi Pōneke Gallery on Abel Smith St is this month presenting Vanessa Crowe's *Makeshift Living*. This installation has taken over the gallery space with hundreds of photos, which piece together a replica collage of the artist's living room.
- If you have not checked out the Weta Cave in Miramar yet, leave the house or your lecture hall immediately, get on a number 2 bus and get over there. Previous sets and props are on show and behind-the-scene interviews with Weta co-founders Peter Jackson, Richard Taylor, Tania Rodger and Jamie Selkirk can be viewed. The cherry on top of the cake is that the mini-museum is free and with *The Hobbit* cast floating around the area at the moment, you never know who you are going to see. ✪

## Books



**There's quite an entertaining but also very serious story behind the idea for *A Man You Can Bank On*. How did the Guatemalan hold-up inspire you to reconsider the concept of crime?**

What happened in Guatemala when I was jammed in the back of a mini bus, unable to move, was that I found a kid with a massive shotgun and trousers that overlap his shoes charging at us, thinking for some reason, 'I'm going to try to rob them', and if he tripped, we were all red mist. A little column in the newspaper reading 'shot accidentally in Guatemala'. That had a profound effect because it was paralysing. You read frequently in crime novels that people do heroic things with guns pointed at them but I just cannot see that happening. We were in a tough part of Guatemala and there were some pretty desperate people, and these heavy guys came over—desperate guys—and cut us off from our guards. One of them grabbed my arm and asked for money, and I would happily have given him a couple of dollars if I had any small money, but I had nothing but \$50 notes and I wasn't about to ask for change. It became more threatening, the grip on my arm became tighter, the guys were closing in, the gap between us and the guards was widening, so I called a guard over—he was a member of the police—and offered him \$50 to be our escort. Now \$50 is a month's salary and he felt he had to earn it all at once. He came over and reversed his rifle and clocked the guy that was holding me. Nothing I'd seen had prepared me for that. First, I could have been killed for no reason, and that was terrifying, and next I'd seen this guy punched. I was aware that crime novelists were trying to outdo each other in terms of violence which escalated from one book to the next and it was becoming pornographic, particularly sexual violence. I knew a crime book had to have violence, but that was when I started thinking that if I was going to include violence, there was going to be an element in it that made people laugh, and that's where the humour really began. After that it was a matter of finding the characters.

# Interview with...

*Salient's* **Fairooz Samy** chats to Australian author Derek Hansen about hold-ups, psychopaths, and his latest book, *A Man You Can Bank On*

**Each character has their own charm—did you base any of them on real people?**

Looking at the two hitmen for example—well, I used to do ads for the Labor party, and back then they used to have links with crime. Two days before the election, they had a party, a lunch, and we were invited. I found myself sitting at the wrong table and opposite me was a guy called Neddy Smith. Neddy Smith is Australia's most notorious hit man and he's now in jail. It was quite amazing how he killed people. He'd take them out in a boat, tie an old cast iron stove to their leg on a very long rope,

“**The man has so much presence and is just the embodiment of pure evil. It was like he was the man and I was the boy, no two ways about it. It didn't matter that I never shared a word with him because I watched him for the next two hours and observed a real-life psychopath, thinking that one day I was**

going to use him in a book. And he became the bases for the hit men. But how does pure evil contribute to the layers of humour in the book? I decided that the hitmen would have a Protestant work ethic, dedicated to their job, taking it very seriously and being creative about the way they did it. There's an element of self improvement to it—they take pride in the fact that they have a contract from America. Overseas recognition. It shouldn't work that two guys that are uncompromisingly violent are also comic heroes, but it does. \*

**Read more online at [salient.org.nz](http://salient.org.nz)!**

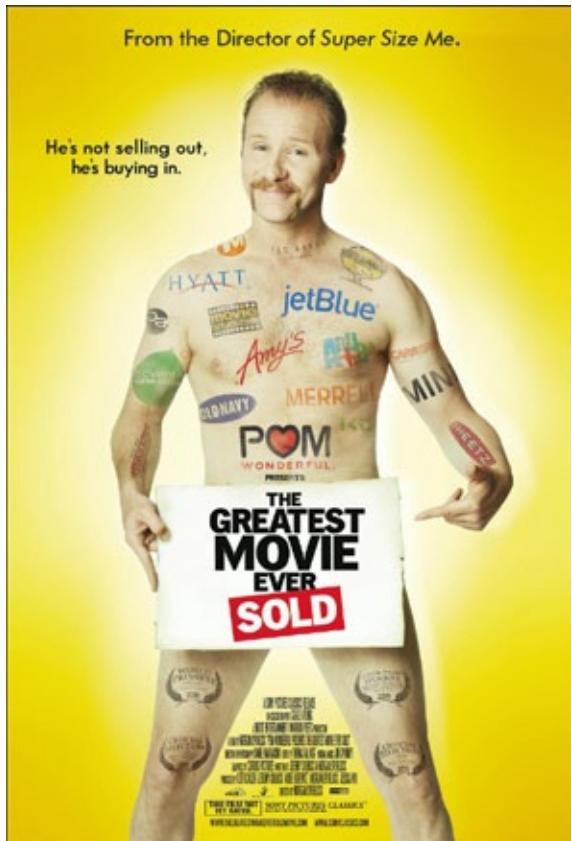


## Film

# Morgan Spurlock

JUDAH FINNIGAN

"Both a blessing and a curse" is how renowned documentarian Morgan Spurlock would describe his own reputation, in relation to getting his latest film *POM Wonderful Presents: The Greatest Movie Ever Sold* off the ground.



**"THERE WERE PLENTY** of people who called me back because of all the work I had done in the past, like *Super Size Me*, but there were *a lot* who said No for exactly that same reason". Sitting down with Morgan for a mere twenty minutes during the final leg of his press tour down under, I was able to grasp a sense of both sides to that persona; a genuine, affable congeniality paired with a mischievous, unpredictable wit. To put it plainly; with this guy, it would be foolish not to expect an agenda.

*The Greatest Movie Ever Sold* is Spurlock's latest exposé; a sharp critique on the world of advertising and product placement—with the ironic catch of being entirely funded by advertising and product placement—and oddly enough, it was teen actress Hayden Panettiere that planted the seed. "It was an episode of *Heroes*, where the cheerleader [Panettiere] was given a car by her dad", Morgan explained. "She just gushed about the Nissan Rogue that he gave her, and there were these close-ups of the logo and the keys and everything. Here was this seventeen year-old girl so excited about... a minivan". Something stuck, and upon further contemplation of the ubiquity of advertising and product placement in television and cinema, Morgan began to develop ideas with his producing partner of a film that explores that world. "Product placement has been around for a very long time, but over the last few years, it's exponentially grown. It's at such a saturation level that I thought 'We should make a movie about this'.

So that's exactly what *The Greatest Movie Ever Sold* is; a meta-layered, riotously entertaining documentation of Morgan's search for funding, his hysterical forays into advertising and a sharp probing of the inner mechanics of the industry itself. But as one would assume, production was not without its hurdles. "When we first had the idea, I was like 'This is gonna be so easy'", Morgan laughed. "I thought it would be a breeze to get these brands on board, but it was so fucking hard". Production began in January, 2009, and it wasn't until September that the first brand actually agreed to take part. "Only one advertising company would even work with us. No product placement companies would work with us. I just began cold-calling all the brands; footwear, beverages, airlines, you name it. In the end, I called 650 brands and only 15 said Yes".

“ A meta-layered, riotously entertaining documentation of Morgan's search for funding, his hysterical forays into advertising and a sharp probing of the inner mechanics of the industry itself

Then the contracts began to roll in (Morgan only had one word to describe them with: "thick"), along with various sponsor demands. "They wanted final cut of the movie, they wanted final approval of every scene their products were in, you name it. But we pushed back on probably 75% of it". Despite limiting their artistic involvement to what he termed 'creative consultation', Morgan assures that the final response to the film from his sponsors has been more than positive—"The whole idea was to make a film that was completely transparent and honest with people. I'm sure there are scenes in there that they would love to change, but ultimately, I think it makes them look so smart that they gave up control. As much as they are the butt of the joke, they are also in on the joke, and they just look savvy as a result". Eleven of the fifteen brands were present for the film's premiere at Sundance and Morgan invited them onstage to a standing ovation—"People were going crazy for the brands, like 'Yeah!! Ban Deodorant! It was amazing'.

As a whole, Spurlock says he couldn't be happier with the final product. "It's better than I anticipated. I think it's the best film I've made. I think it's the funniest film I've made. With the sheer entertainment value and what the takeaway is, I'm so proud of this movie". Hordes of knee-slapping patrons at both of Wellington's screenings for the film can testify to that sentiment too. Selling out has never looked so smart. \*

Read more online at [salient.org.nz](http://salient.org.nz)!

## Music

# Amnesty Antics

**STUART BAKER**

Photos by Kiran Matthews

If you used the gelatinous photoreceptors embedded in your face last week, you may have noticed Amnesty International posters around campus.

**EVERY YEAR, AMNESTY** International at Vic celebrates Freedom Week, which concludes with a gig hosted by Bodega. This year also celebrated Amnesty's 50th, with a stellar and eclectic line-up.

The gig began with a toast to freedom, before the chill Fraiser Ross whistled and trilled through songs "about the sort of love that would turn you into a dictator". His style, akin to Liam Finn, held the crowd's attention, before High Class Hobo Society got them dancing. Their rhythm section filled the room, but it was the contrast of the vocalists that held my attention.

Farmer Maori and the Maori Farmers' operatic reggae was bizarre, but you had to commend them for trying something different. The name fits their kiwiana style, and they were certainly interesting. FM&TMF are a band to keep an eye on, to see if they can fully flesh out their unique sound.

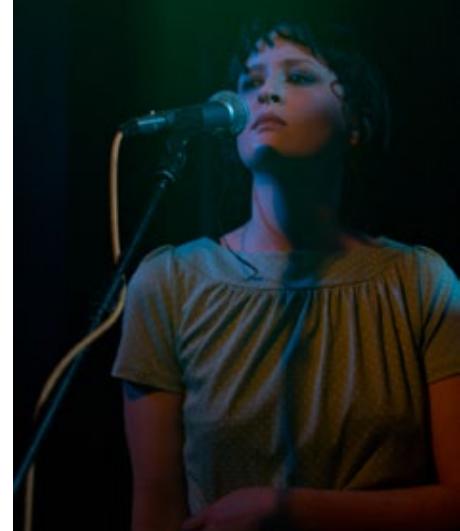
Megalex's set was definitely one of the highlights, the freestyle rapper laying down rhymes about oregano, Morrissey, and anything else the crowd could enunciate well enough for the flu-afflicted rapper to hear. Despite feeling unwell, Megalex rapped his hat off, and threw in a bit of break-dancing to show how unsick he was. There was no slurring in the Slur Tones performance, just slick, slick guitar playing and a cracking Strokes cover. The vocalist helped continue *Salient*'s seemingly institutionalised

*Doctor Who* referencing by wearing Smith-like attire, again proving how cool bow-ties are.

The Eastern played last, going well past their intended set time, playing on despite heading to Christchurch early the next morning for the funeral of a recently departed friend, a number of band members already absent because of this. Their set was a writhing, wailing, beard-sweating organism of passion and beauty, with crooning vocals from a southern belle on the verge of swooning, and every note from the banjo a "big fuck you to Gerry Brownlee." The Eastern played with the crowd, migrating to the centre of the floor for an acoustic set, and bringing audience members on stage to join them for their final songs.

Amnesty's marathon and diverse concert clearly illustrated the connection between music, humanitarianism, and cake. I'm not sure whether it was heaps of sugar or if freedom actually has a taste, but the birthday cake provided free to the crowd was nearly as delicious as the right to vote you'll practice in November, and worth the cover charge alone.

Amnesty at Vic set out to promote discourse whilst providing a kick-ass musical experience, and they more than delivered. You can count me in for their 51st, as well as the upcoming HCHS and Slur Tones gigs at Bodega. \*



# Games

## ANOMALOUS MATERIALS

**ANGUS WINTER**

Twelve or so years ago, if you asked me who made my favourite games, I would answer within a heartbeat: "Squaresoft".

**THE POSTER-CHILD** of Japanese game development during the '90s, Square were responsible for countless titles which defined the precedent for big budget videogames and made an unforgettable imprint upon an entire generation of gamers. As a young videogame enthusiast, their successive releases containing deep, addictive game design and consistently fantastic art and sound direction filled me with wonder and kept me glued to the cathode-ray tube television, occupying many more hours of my time than any tale of a boy wizard could hope to. These days, however, things have changed. I can't remember the last time I was excited by the onset of a Square-developed game, and the thought of Japanese videogames only brings to mind empty, dull characters and walls of obtuse, incomprehensible text. My Japan-hungry younger self would be in disbelief.

My unwavering appreciation of Squaresoft's creative output was all part of a wider picture. In the mid to late '90s existed the golden age of the original Playstation, the glory of which can mostly be attributed to Japan. Games like *Metal Gear Solid*,

*Resident Evil* and *Final Fantasy* stood as serious contenders to any western release industry-wide, and also as the most celebrated games on the Playstation itself. At the same time, Nintendo was quietly doing its own thing (as always) and being incredibly successful in its development and release of new additions to its then

relatively youthful franchises, in particular *The Legend Of Zelda: Ocarina of Time* and *Super Mario 64*. These games were more than just fun to play; they cemented Nintendo's key intellectual properties as relevant cultural icons in a time where the transition from 2D to 3D was changing everything. In short, it was a booming period of artistry in electronic entertainment for Japan, and audiences and critics alike were loving it.

Unfortunately for people like me, something went wrong. On April 1, 2003, Squaresoft merged with Enix Corporation, best known for the popular *Dragon Quest* series. This marriage of two Japanese industry giants seemed like a positive thing at first, but as history tells us time and time again, once decisions start being made in the larger interest of financial gains, creativity is tossed aside. From that time until now, Square-Enix have become a big, bloated corporation, with fingers in all sorts of industry pies worldwide. They have spread to Europe and are annexing talented developers there, as well as buying up the rights to whatever intellectual property they can get their hands on. This would be all

well and good if it were not so seemingly concurrent with the detriment of their artistic output. Since 2003, SE have released two *World of Warcraft* clones, two heavily-criticised additions to the *Final Fantasy* series, and absolutely desecrated their prior intellectual properties to the utmost extent, where once popular games have been expanded into sequels, prequels, films, cellphone games, et cetera, most of which are derivative and ultimately disappointing. According to Yoichi Wada, the current president of SE, "it's very difficult to hit the jackpot, as it were. Once we've hit it, we have to get all the juice possible out of it". In Squaresoft's 1997 opus, *Final Fantasy VII* (one of said intellectual properties to be later "juiced" by SE), you play an environmental terrorist locked in an ongoing struggle with a powerful corporation. Thematically, the entire game has an overarching anti-corporate tone. Doesn't the fact that they would take the success of that idea and years later effectively pimp it out for cash say a little something about their change in focus?

Nowadays, the western world is not so excited about Japanese videogames. The continual release and success of a new *Call of Duty* game each year is much more indicative of what the larger gaming audience wants. But I miss those days when I could eagerly await a new epic tale from Squaresoft, a world rich in artistic design to be utterly consumed by, not some cheap, lazy cash-in that doesn't dare tread new ground. Perhaps, one day Square-Enix will surprise me. Or, you know, maybe not. \*





# EVERYBODY LOVES A GINGER

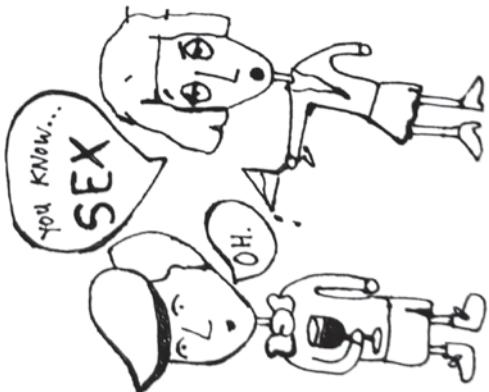
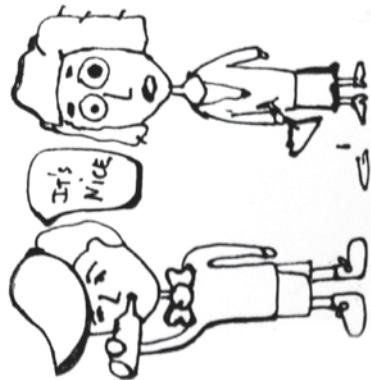
**HAYLEY ADAMS**

Gingernuts are the best thing out when you are looking for something to dunk in your cup of tea. They're a little spicy, a little crunchy and a whole lot delicious. They are certainly a Kiwi favourite and my boyfriend is always happy to polish off a batch in one sitting.

- **2 cups of flour**
- **1 cup of caster sugar**
- **2 tsp ground ginger**
- **1 tsp cinnamon**
- **½ tsp baking soda**
- **125g of butter, cut into small cubes**
- **1 egg**
- **1 big tbsp golden syrup/honey**

Preheat your oven to 160 degrees Celsius and cover a baking tray with baking paper. In a small bowl beat egg, golden syrup/honey together until nicely combined. In another bowl, sift the flour, sugar, ginger, cinnamon and baking soda together. Now using your fingertips, rub the cubed butter into the dry ingredients. Try not to melt it when you are doing this, you want to rub it into the dry ingredients so they resemble fine breadcrumbs. Make a well in the centre of the dry mixture and pour in the wet ingredients which you have already combined. Work into a firm dough (you can use a wooden spoon, or just get into it and use your hands). Roll into balls in whichever size your heart desires, if you like little bite-sized bits for dunking, do that, or make one huge cookie if you really want to impress someone. Pop the ball(s) onto your baking tray. I like to flatten them out with a fork (wet it a little so it doesn't stick); it makes them flatter and therefore a bit crispier. Bake for about 15 minutes or until they are golden brown; you can leave them a little longer if you like them quite hard. Transfer to a cake rack and let cool.

Enjoy with a cup of tea! \*



# Notices



**Salient** provides a free notice service for all Victoria University of Wellington students, VUWSA-affiliated clubs and not-for-profit organisations. Notices should be received by 5pm Tuesday the week before publication. Notices should be fewer than 100 words. For-profit organisations will be charged \$10 per notice. Send notices to [editor@salient.org.nz](mailto:editor@salient.org.nz), with 'Notice' in the subject line.

## Drinking getting you down?

AA Student Meeting  
Every Thursday  
Student Union Building Room SU219  
Noon  
email: [aameetingstudent@gmail.com](mailto:aameetingstudent@gmail.com)

## Cupcake day at VUW

This Thursday is Cupcake day at VUW! Come and buy a cupcake between 10am and 4pm in the Kirk 3rd floor foyer and all the profits go to support your local SPCA. Prices from 50c.

## Vic OE – Vic Student Exchange Programme

Why not study overseas as part of your degree? Earn Vic credit, get Studylink & grants, explore the world! Weekly seminars on Wednesdays, Level 2, Easterfield Building, 12.55pm - 1.05pm

Email: [exchangestudents@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:exchangestudents@vuw.ac.nz)

Website: [victoria.ac.nz/exchange](http://victoria.ac.nz/exchange)

Visit us: Level 2, Easterfield Building  
Drop-in hours: Mon & Tues 9-12, Wed-Fri 10-12  
Careers and Jobs

2011/12 Internships and 2012 Graduate Jobs:

Applications Closing Soon (details on CareerHub careerhub.victoria.ac.nz):

24/8 - Deans and Rees  
29/8 - Clemenger Group  
31/8 - Embassy of France; The Australian National University; Orion Health; Newmont Asia Pacific; Victoria University Summer Research Scholarships  
10/9 - United Nations; Fonterra  
19/9 - AIESEC  
30/11 - Jet Programme

Employer Presentation - check details/book on CareerHub:

6/9 - ASB - targeting all disciplines, 5.30pm

Get expert advice from Vic Careers on:

- what to do with your degree
- how to put together a CV
- what to expect at an interview
- how to get a job

Vic Careers: 463-5393, [careers-service@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:careers-service@vuw.ac.nz), 14 Kelburn Parade

## VUW Refugee Background Student Drop-in

Come along to VUW Refugee Background Student Drop-in in MY1010, 4:00pm - 6:00pm. There promises to be snacks provided! Bring a friend and perhaps some work—senior students are there to help with essays, tests and navigating Victoria! Staffed Monday to Friday! All welcome!

## Sci Fi Club Quiz Night

The Second Biannual Sci Fi Club Quiz Night for 2011 happening Week 7 Thursday evening in SU217.

The festivities start at 4pm with a showing of Torchwood: Miracle Day and the quiz starting at 7.30pm.

Orders for Hell Pizza must be in before 6pm.

Prizes for best team name and places and spot prizes for all-round fun!

Bring your friends and sci fi club knowledge! There will be lollies!

Be here and be square.

## Film Society

Do you want a chance to watch a vast range of weekly movies with fellow students?

Do you want to eat homemade popcorn while doing so?

Do you want to pay dirt cheap prices for it?

If the answer to these questions is 'yes' then come along to Film Society.

Thursday Night

6:30pm

Room 203, 83 Fairlie Terrace

This week, pay only \$15 for a year's worth of films (carrying through semester 1, 2012) or \$2 for a single non-membership screening and watch Lars von Trier's controversial horror film Antichrist.

Film Society: All the cool kids are doing it.

## Victoria University Christian Union AGM

The Victoria University Christian Union (CU) is having their Annual General Meeting the night of Thursday 18th August, starting 6:30 at Ramsey House (8KP). Dinner will be potluck. All are welcome.

## Victorian University Ian Unian AGM

The Victorian University Ian Unian (IU) is having their annual Gianean Meetian the night of Thursday Eighteenth of August, starting 6:30 at Ian House (8IP). Dinnanner will be iamluck. All ians are welcan.

## Do you like winning prizes without paying entry fees?

The Victoria University Roleplaying and Games Club is hosting their first puzzle hunt over the mid-trimester break. If you'd like to win prizes by doing the same thing you do in Monday lectures, then visit us at [gamesclub.org.nz](http://gamesclub.org.nz)

Also, there are awesome prizes. Did we mention that?

## Flatmate Wanted

Single bedroom available immediately in Karori

\$90pw + \$40 expenses

2 current flatmates, both female, both awesome

Must love dogs and smokers preferred

contact Steph on 027 856 4308 or email [info@propertyman.co.nz](mailto:info@propertyman.co.nz)

## Toastmasters!!!

Wednesdays, 12-1pm, Room 218, Student Union Building

Because communication isn't optional, Toastmasters is a club dedicated to helping people practice public speaking in a fun and supportive environment.

Everyone - no matter what your current public speaking ability - is welcome. Come along and see what Toastmasters is all about.

Visit us online at [vicuni.freetoasthost.info](http://vicuni.freetoasthost.info)

## Women's Group end-of-term party!

A quick AGM followed by drinks and card games in the Hunter Lounge. Come let down your hair. The AGM is at 5:30 in Meeting room 2, Wednesday. Drinks will be after.

## 2011 Pasifika Students' Fono

The Fono (conference) is a 3-day event which brings together students from Tertiary institutions around the country to discuss the challenges facing Pasifika Students' in Tertiary education.

Where: Student Union Building, Victoria University of Wellington

When: 30 August 2011 - 1 September 2011

Delegates will spend day one of the Fono discussing the barriers that are faced by the Pasifika community in Tertiary education, day two will explore the political climate and address the policies that affect Pasifika Students', while the final day is an opportunity to discuss and apply what delegates have learned to their everyday situations.

For more information or to register please contact **fono.rego@gmail.com**.

Registration is \$65 for students; \$100 for all others. Registration includes food. Limited free accommodation is available also.

## UniQ BYO Allies: Picnic and Mixer

Coming up this Friday the 17th, at 3pm, we will be having a Bring Your Own Allies picnic - a lovely, bubbly, positive way to close out the half-trimester. Weather-permitting, this will be on the Hunter Lawn (corner of Salamanca Rd and Kelburn Pde) - though if we're rained out, we'll all be huddling inside at the Hunter Lounge. Either way, we'll have someone posted at each location to direct you the right way.

This is an opportunity to bring along your straight mate allies (people who love you/you love), questioning friends, and those who may not quite be out of the closet just yet. It is a safe space! Everyone will be welcome and jovial. We promise!

We'll be providing some snacks (grapes, hummus and bread, etc. staple picnic fare), but please bring along your own picniccy treats! It promises to be a grand old time, and a great chance to make some sweet new ally friends to hang out with in the holidays while you're procrastinating doing those assignments.

UniQ Victoria will be posting up a facebook event: check up on [facebook.com/uniqvic](http://facebook.com/uniqvic) for more information. If you're not already, get on the UniQ emailing list by emailing us at [univictoria@gmail.com](mailto:univictoria@gmail.com).

Cheers, queers!

**G33K**

I'M NOT OPENING THESE PETALS UNTIL MY WEDDING NIGHT!

Renee Lyons, 2011

www.sparkxcomic.com



# Letters

## SALIENT LETTERS POLICY 2011

**Salient** welcomes, encourages and thrives on public debate—be it serious or otherwise—through the letters pages. Write about what inspires you, enrages you, makes you laugh, makes you cry. Send us feedback, send us abuse. Anything. Letters must be received before 5pm Tuesday, for publication the following week.

Letters must be no more than 250 words. Pseudonyms are fine, but all letters must include your real name, address and telephone number. These will not be printed. Please note that letters will not be corrected for spelling or grammar. The Editors reserve the right to edit, abridge or decline any letters without explanation.

Letters can be sent to [letters@salient.org.nz](mailto:letters@salient.org.nz), posted to **Salient**, c/- Victoria University, PO Box 600, Wellington or dropped into the **Salient** office on the third floor of the Student Union Building.



## A Morality Mail

Dear Salient,

I feel I must respond to the articulate piece "Karma Will Serve them Right", as I think there were one or two discrepancies that require address. I'll keep it concise. "Expecting the world to treat you fairly is like expecting a bull not to attack you because you're vegetarian". I agree. I think the majority of the population is aware of the fact that the morality of one's conduct does not ensure a reflective outcome for that individual i.e. good actions do not secure good outcomes and vice versa. The world is not that predictable. As I see it, this contradicts the allegedly shared notion of justice through conditionality "good works= reward, evil works=punishment", which is incompatible with this rejection of intrinsic justice.

Furthermore morality is not a gift; it is a logical continuous discourse of what constitutes humane conduct, which is removed from the actual nature of the world. We may believe in some moral ideas in principle, but that does not produce rose-tinted glasses or idealistic expectations.

I instead experience disdain when people claim that uncertainty lends credence to unknowable concepts e.g. God. If you claim that an unknowable concept is possible in the strictest sense, it follows by default that all the arbitrary properties attached to this concept are then also possible. However, let us not forget that this applies to literally anything that cannot be practically disproved. (This not only includes every other religion, but every single unknowable concept).

Kind Regards,

M.D

## That TL;DR letter last week? Turns out it was pretty mean to some people. Should have R it.

It is good to know that despite the fact I could be beaten to a pulp, called a fag and ridiculed, that the government won't stone me to death for being gay. Clearly I should be thankful for this very generous reprieve, according to your recent letter writer.

Now that I have been given this privilege I shall certainly be quiet and never demand any additional rights ever again, for that would be most ungrateful. I won't be stoned, what more could I want?

Yours Sincerely,  
Gerald Lee

## Politics lol

Are you an undecided voter?  
Do you grow weary of endless political rhetoric?  
Fed up with life and the way things are going?

Keep thing the way they are!

Vote Sado-Masochist Party.

Sincerely,  
Kaiser Permanente

## Fortnightly is regularly.

Dear Salient

Where is the "Laying down the law" column? It only seems to appear once a fortnight and this makes me incredibly sad. I always find the topics discussed in it interesting and thought-provoking, and every once in a while I learn something as well (isn't that what university is for?).

Please bring it back regularly so I can once again rely on Salient to always have something that I will enjoy, while avoiding doing my own work of course.

xoxo  
Lovin' the law

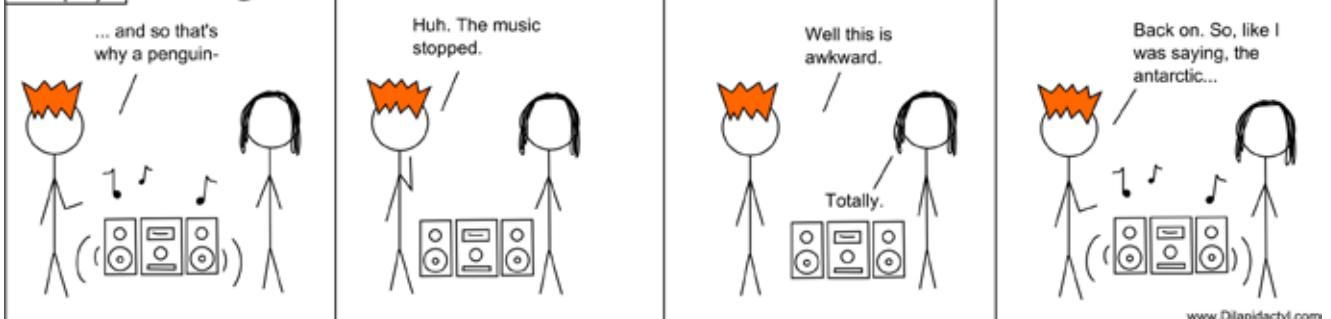
**All right. So. I want you to sit down and count on your fingers how many interactions with this guy you've had outside of a tutorial. Can't fill one hand, can you? Because, and there really is no nice way of putting this, you don't know him. You admit that your feelings for him are overwhelming. That's because he is perfect, right? You'd never be worthy of him, eh? Well, number one, please get over your self-esteem issues, and number two, you aren't attracted to him, you are attracted to the fictional construct of him you have built in your head. You want a fantasy to be the father of your children. So. What do you do? Well, easy, actually talk to him. Y'know. Not in class. Like a real person would.**

Dearest salient,

I am in trouble... I have 5000 words to complete by 12pm Friday but I am distracted with my thoughts about a certain handsome incredibly smart man... If I were to tell you his name, my friends would know it was me that wrote this letter and I'd never hear the end of it. But I got it bad. He's my tutor and I have no gaydar so I can't even tell if he's straight or not. And I'm sure if he is, then he's probably got a girlfriend. After all, a guy like that does not stay on the market for long. He is a total babe though, on all levels. I mean intellectually, and physically. I can't help but want to jump his bones... What do I do? Do I tell him? It would be super awkward if I did and I was rejected. I'd probably cry at the realisation that I was not worthy of such a babe.

# The Ginger Chronicles

At the party...



I want him to be the father of my children Salient... But I would never tell him that  
Help?

### The kind of person who uses 'rant' to describe a 110 word letter, didn't like the Week that Wasn't last week

Unfortunately, last week's "The Week That Wasn't" wasn't that humorous at all. Nor did I find it in any way informative, be it fictional or not. The new logo meant that I actually missed it the first time around, causing me to read the article like it was serious. Either way

I was unimpressed. Sorry to rant, but I quite liked that regular guy, although I cannot remember his name (is it Paul?). He made me laugh.

May I assume that a bit of a giggle is pretty well accepted amidst a long and loathsome Monday morning?

Yours Faithfully,  
Roldo

PS. Its Warren! That's his/her name. You know the one.

### What about the giant steampunk spider from the end of Wild Wild West?

Dear Meta-ironic pun about puns-lent,

I do not like spiders. Please do not put them in your magazine and/or my house.

Thank you,  
Concerned from Kelburn

### FFFFFUUUUUUUUUU

To whoever took my cellphone after I left it on a table for a MINUTE: FUCK YOU YOU THIEVING FUCK, I had had that phone for ONE FUCKING HOUR after having my last one stolen.

Sincerely,  
Fuck You

### Salient: Subversively pushing left wing agendas since 1938

Dear why-don't-you-do-your-job-lent

It was disappointing to see Seamus Brady continuing to subversively push his left wing agenda in his student funded prez col. Too busy being a harbinger of doom and gloom with projections of disaster for student unions, he has failed to show why students should have any faith in the current system. By his own admission the actions of the VUWSA exec have been "embarrassing."

Instead of continuing a campaign of misinformation (neglecting to mention the slow progress of the VSM bill was due to opportunistic Labour filibustering) and bluster

I encourage Mr Brady to focus on doing his job running VUWSA and preventing future embarrassments. If that happens the student body may begin to have some confidence in the organisation we are forced to give our money to.

Simon Bunckenburg

### ASCIlling for trouble

/(^\_^)/

HAARP CAUSED THE EARTHQUAKES AND I CAN'T FIND MY TINFOIL HAT, SEE YOU GUYS IN THE UNDERWORLD

\(^\_^\)\

- Art Vandelay

### (xpost from r/firstworldproblems)

Is it just me, or is this not the 21st century? Uni Stop, which pretty much has a license to print money still hasn't upgraded to Eftpos terminals that run on the broadband network. Dial up? Seriously.... In 2011? WTF.

So it's 9am and I'm going to get me a hot flavored beverage to remain conscious from the 4 hours sleep I got (thanks back to bad tv series and age of empires)... Not only am I met with a line that stretches to Africa and back, but the Eftpos takes roughly 35minutes to process a \$4 transaction. And to add insult to injury my card remains in someone else's hand for the next half hour. I dunno about you, but I find that rude. GIVE ME MY CARD BACK!!!!!!

For a business that probably receives half the student loans in NZ, upgrading to faster eftpos would save a shit load of time, and I could avoid the awkward moment of walking into a lecture late and having to sit on the stairs, the lecturer stopping and saying I'm a fire hazard....

COME ON!! We've been to the fucking moon like 40 years ago, broadband eftpos aint hard or expensive.

Anon

### Disproving Atheist Morality

Dear Not Convinced,

While I share your concerns about injustice, I am interested as to what informs your sense of justice? If there was a collective moral compass that is decided by humans, then isn't it free to swing in any direction? For a compass to work properly shouldn't there be an external true north? As Christians our true north points to the God who made us.

Well done Harriet for going "where the evidence takes you," it takes guts to change your mind and then stick your neck out.

Best wishes,

Somewhere South



this is a comic and you are reading it

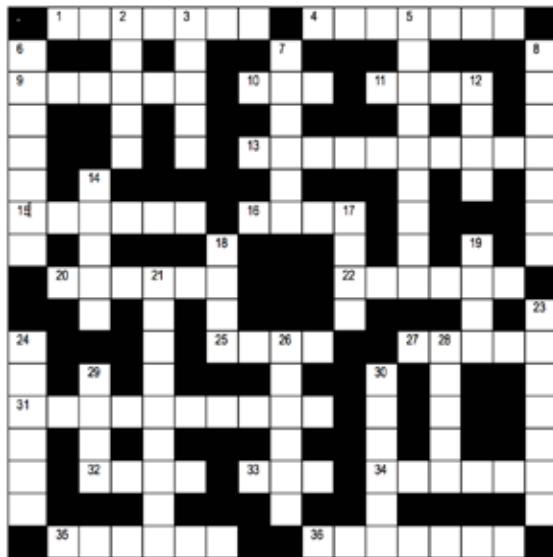
Look everyone!

I gonna do magic!

!!!

Amazing!

# Puzzles



## CRYPTIC ACROSS:

- Hug from the bee to get the money, dollar dollar bill y'all (7)
- Why annoy the regular back up the bum? (7)
- Wobble the tree with Spielberg to phone home (6)
- Some Jamaican music is homosexual (3)
- The pink mountain lion might be an obstacle (4)
- The symbol at sure twisted written approvals (10)
- I blew and read like Cadbury (6)
- At what time is it pronounced Fen? (4)
- Amend to sound like a quartet because everybody hurts sometimes (6)
- The motivation to refuse encouraging another's son (6)
- A boy from Kathmandu demands where my car is (4)
- Peculiar burlesque eroticism (5)
- Mould doubles the noise to press key (10)
- Pucker up for Gene (4)
- Go inter down on the job course (3)
- Temperament innate, sure (6)
- Inbred negligent social behaviour (7)
- Support the turn from within amateur evening (7)

## ACROSS:

- Accept (7)
- Sodomy (7)
- Waver (6)
- Happy (3)
- Problem (4)
- Autographs (10)
- Colour (6)
- While (4)
- Development (6)
- Logic (6)
- Guy (4)
- Strange or unusual (5)
- Pigeonhole (10)
- A display of affection (4)
- Couit (3)
- Environment (6)
- Sex-based category (7)
- Care for (7)

## DOWN:

- Macho (5)
- Collection (5)
- Sexual organs (9)
- Try (7)
- Cast out (6)
- A character (7)
- Young female (4)
- Liberated (5)
- The usual (4)
- In the middle of (4)
- Adore (4)
- Downtrodden (9)
- An idealist (7)
- Affront (6)
- Debonair (6)
- Inadequate (5)
- Look for (4)
- To trap (6)

answers

## ACROSS:

- ASSISTANCE
- ANGER
- EXTOL
- INCLUSION
- ALSO
- ESTATE
- SCHISM
- ENTIRE
- CAPTIVATE
- REFUND
- WHEEL
- LITERATURE
- SEAT
- HONOUR
- CHASTE
- SQUIRM
- BROOD
- MOLEST
- CRAFT
- FRINGE
- HORIZONTAL
- IRON
- UNTIDY
- ABIDE
- DIAGNOSIS
- CANDID
- NOTIFY
- NEFARIOUS
- GARISH
- VANISH
- BOUNCE
- LATCH
- DEMON
- PAIR

## DOWN:

- ASSISTANCE
- ANGER
- EXTOL
- INCLUSION
- ALSO
- ESTATE
- SCHISM
- ENTIRE
- CAPTIVATE
- REFUND
- WHEEL
- LITERATURE
- SEAT
- HONOUR
- CHASTE
- SQUIRM
- BROOD
- MOLEST
- CRAFT
- FRINGE
- HORIZONTAL
- IRON
- UNTIDY
- ABIDE
- DIAGNOSIS
- CANDID
- NOTIFY
- NEFARIOUS
- GARISH
- VANISH
- BOUNCE
- LATCH
- DEMON
- PAIR

5	3	2	7	8	6	9	1	4
1	7	9	3	4	5	8	6	2
4	8	6	9	2	1	3	5	7
2	1	7	6	9	3	5	4	8
8	9	5	4	1	2	7	3	6
3	6	4	5	7	8	1	2	9
9	5	1	2	6	7	4	8	3
6	4	3	8	5	9	2	7	1
7	2	8	1	3	4	6	9	5

Missing letters: www dot gamesclub dot org dot nz

Hidden message: Games Club puzzle hunt. Go to the website. Win prizes. All that jazz.

## Red Light, Green Light

T	P	o	W	A	T	C	H	S	S	E	R	o	E	o
H	O	V	I	R	o	D	E	D	o	F	I	R	S	S
N	o	T	S	E	S	T	Y	G	S	O	F	S	E	T
R	E	A	F	H	F	o	A	I	E	I	T	C	I	I
L	R	K	O	I	I	P	G	B	N	U	H	K	N	o
T	A	R	L	A	S	E	L	E	A	o	C	C	O	T
A	T	U	N	A	o	O	H	N	H	O	U	I	o	R
o	I	G	H	T	W	T	o	T	o	T	F	T	E	H
I	V	R	R	O	E	R	E	A	I	Y	F	S	H	Y
T	E	I	N	o	A	E	E	R	R	A	T	o	T	T
W	P	E	O	F	W	E	E	H	A	W	K	O	S	H
S	o	I	N	S	E	L	E	H	o	I	H	P	E	M
T	O	M	o	P	A	R	D	J	U	I	R	I	N	G
o	O	D	A	S	o	L	D	T	H	o	R	O	O	D
E	S	K	C	I	R	B	o	E	L	M	A	H	N	O
P	B	U	R	o	E	N	O	R	G	A	N	o	C	E
R	A	T	I	N	I	N	D	I	o	G	T	H	E	M

ARGONAUTS  
 ARISTOPHANES  
 BLOW ONES TOP  
 BURST OPEN  
 CHRISTOPHER WALKEN  
 DOORSTOP  
 DYING OUT  
 DYSTOPIAN  
 EGO TRIPS  
 FARAGO  
 GOES TO PRESS  
 GOETHE  
 GOOD AS GOLD  
 I GOT RHYTHM

INDIGO  
 LEGO BRICKS  
 MEPHISTOPHELES  
 ORGAN STOP  
 POGO STICK  
 POST-OPERATIVE  
 STOPGAP  
 SHORTSTOP  
 STOPWATCH  
 THE GOONIES  
 TOM STOPPARD  
 VIRGO  
 WAY TO GO

## Sudoku

9							8	4
							6	3
6				5	8			
			5	3			6	
9		8		6			5	
7					1	9		
			9	7			2	
2	4	9					8	
5	3							1





Salient and Vic ITS present

# Pimp My Lounge!

Win a Sony  
data projector,  
a DVD/CD/MP3  
player, speakers,  
and a screen

One person's trash is...  
another person's home  
entertainment system

Salient and ITS have teamed up to locate the worst lounge in the student body, which we will pimp out with some of the second-hand stuff we've got lying around, including a **Sony data projector**, a **DVD/CD/MP3 player**, **speakers**, and a **screen** (of sorts). We'll even throw in a multi-point power plug and an extension cord!

Just send a picture of you holding an issue of *Salient* in your poor excuse for a lounge to [editor@salient.org.nz](mailto:editor@salient.org.nz) with PIMP MY LOUNGE in the subject line and you're in the competition. The mankiest lounges will be featured in an upcoming issue of *Salient*. The one voted by ITS and *Salient* staff to be the worst will win the whole package. We'll even deliver and set up your prize in person. Photos by the 26<sup>th</sup> of August please. For terms and conditions, go to [victoria.ac.nz/its/student-services/student-promotions.aspx](http://victoria.ac.nz/its/student-services/student-promotions.aspx).